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The shekel

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INDEX to **THE SHEKEL**

And a Brief History of AINA

•
VOLUMES I-XV
1968 - 1982



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of Israel's coinage, past and present, and all aspects of Judaica Numismatica. It is a democratically organized, membership oriented group, chartered as a non-profit association under the laws of the State of New York.

As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meeting and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related background to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men and women of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association.

The Association is the publisher of THE SHEKEL, a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour of Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at \$10.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at \$150.00 per year. Junior membership (under 18) \$2.50 per year. Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

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INDEX TO THE SHEKEL VOLUMES I - XV 1968 - 1982

Compiled by Mel Wacks NLG, AINA-16



INTRODUCTION

In 1977, when I wrote A Ten Year Retrospective of The Shekel, I stated the following . . . which is even more true today:

What collector of Judaica has not dreamed of a comprehensive catalog covering ancient Biblical coins, Judaic medals, coins and paper money of Palestine and modern Israel, etc.?

Surprisingly, such a reference work already exists, albeit has been largely taken for granted. It is The Shekel. Indeed, The Shekel is not a publication to be read and soon discarded or forgotten. Its articles are both timely and timeless; they form an indispensable compendium of past and present knowledge in all areas of Holy Land/Judaic numismatics for over 2500 years.

There are two basic ways to learn and enjoy from the many recognized scholars and interested amateurs who want to share their experience and knowledge with you in the pages of The Shekel. Just sit down with a few past issues or bound copies and scan the pages. You'll be surprised at the superb articles that you may have read and forgotten . . . or just overlooked. Secondly, The Shekel can be used as an important research tool . . . for preparing a display, a club talk or an article. To aid such endeavors we have prepared a detailed index which enables you to locate articles by subject with great ease.

Index listings have been arranged in various ways; some are alphabetical (e.g. Jewish Personalities, Judaic Numismatic Bibliography), others are chronological (e.g. Israel Commemorative Chanukah Coins, AINA History) or numerical (e.g. AINA Israel Study Tours, Israel Commemorative Independence Day Anniversary Coins). For each listing, the title, author, volume, number and page of each pertinent article is indicated.

The amazing diversity of The Shekel has more than lived up to founding editor Nat Sobel's hope, expressed in 1968, that "we expect the magazine to become a prime source of information on Israel numismatics."

This index is dedicated to the stalwart editors of The Shekel: Nat Sobel (1968-1970, 1980-1981), George Gilbert (1970-1977, 1982 to the present), Ed Schuman (1977-1980) and David Alexander (1981). It is also dedicated to our talented writers and to our loyal readers, without whom this work would be meaningless. — Mel Wacks.

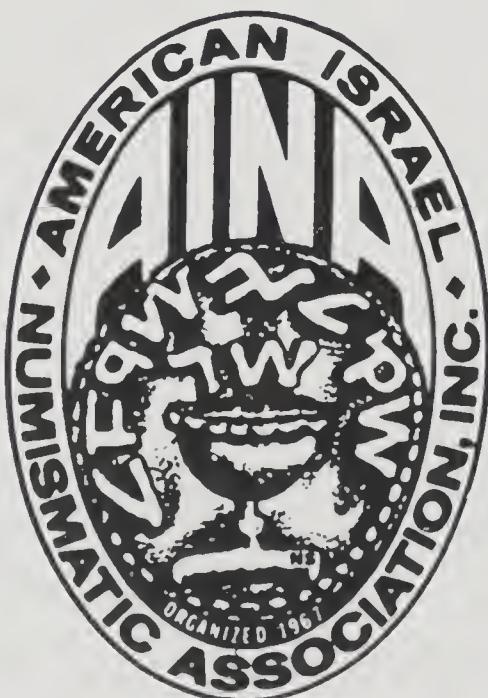


THE SHEKEL

Official publication
of the
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Numismatic Association

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Founded 1967



AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION (AINA)

Conventions

AINA at ANA Conventions

1974 7/3/2
1976 9/5/11
1977 10/6/16
1981 14/5/22

Greater Los Angeles Coin Conventions

First - 1976 9/6/12
Second - 1979 12/6/10

Greater Miami Coin Conventions

Second - 1980 13/2/21
Third - 1981 (M. Weinschel/M. Druck)
14/1/23
Fourth - 1982 (N. Sobel) 15/1/9

Greater New York Coin Convention

First - 1973 5/2/26, 6/1/20, 6/2/2
Second - 1974 7/1/2, 7/2/2
Third - 1975 8/2/2
Fourth - 1976 9/2/5, 9/3/3
Fifth - 1977 10/1/16, 10/3/16
Sixth - 1978 (E. Schuman) 11/4/17
Eighth - 1980 13/4/24
Ninth - 1981 (M. Druck) 14/3/42
Tenth - 1982 15/4/10
Convention Badges 1973-1975 (M. Morgenstern) 8/4/20

Greater New York Currency Convention

First - 1980 13/5/26
Second - 1981 (D. Alexander) 14/5/24
Third - 1982 15/6/19

Israel Study Tours

First - 1968 (N. Goldman) 1/4/7
Second - 1969
—(W. Thompson) 2/1/5
—(N. Sobel) 2/2/6
—2/3/5, 3/1/10
—(B. Abelson) 3/2/2
Third - 1970 (A. Weinberg) 4/2/13
Fourth - 1971 5/2/2, 5/2/12
Fifth - 1972 5/3/13
Seventh - 1974 (R. Reich) 8/2/6
Eighth - 1975
—8/4/9
—(D. Simms/S. Krasner) 9/4/3
Ninth - 1976
—10/2/34
—(A. Rosenblum) 10/3/9, 10/4/15
Tenth - 1977 (F. Schuman) 11/3/17
Eleventh - 1978 (M. Weinschel) 12/3/24
Twelfth - 1979 (F. Schuman) 13/4/11
Thirteenth - 1980 (R. Leonard) 14/4/24,
14/5/38, 14/6/34, 15/1/27
Fourteenth - 1981 (F. Roganson)
15/4/21

General

Awards

Best of Show 10/3/4
Cleveland INS Creates Newsletter
Award 14/6/23
Exhibit Award Initiated 13/5/8
Photo Contest 6/2/30

Education

Audio-Visual Slide Lectures
—9/1/19, 10/2/66
Second Year of Service (R. Nolan)
12/2/44
Board Takes Action on Imitation "Ancient" Coins 5/1/7
First Forum in New York (N. Goldman)
1/2/5
Photo Set of Ancient Coins Readied
9/3/24
Ten Year Retrospective of The Shekel
(M. Wacks) 10/2/20
Workshop in New York 6/4/11

History

1000 Members in One Month 1/1/31
Logo by Nat Sobel 1/1/49
Glimpse in the Future (N. Goldman)
1/3/11
Happy First Birthday (J. Milo) 1/4/4
Life Membership Plan 5/3/14
Forest in Israel 7/3/15
Aids Israel Emergency Fund (R. Messing) 7/4/26
Opens National Office 8/3/22
Membership Symbol Created 9/1/31
Brief History of AINA (G. Gilbert)
10/2/8
Life Members 10/2/53
Mayor of New York City Proclaims
"AINA Week" 10/3/12
Florida Community Declares "AINA
Week" 10/4/25
Directory of INS Club Presidents—Past
and Present 10/2/54

Medals

1968 Levi Eshkol 1/1/14
1969 - 1977 AINA Tour 10/2/46
1973 Membership 5/4/19
1975 AINA Tour - JNF Medal 8/1/12
1976 Membership 8/4/27
1976 Washington - U.S. Bicentennial
(E. Janis) 9/2/3
1976 Washington Crossing the Delaware 9/5/12
1977 Tenth Anniversary 9/2/16, 10/2/
18, 11/2/15
1982 Membership 15/2/24

Personalities

Morris Bram - About Our Morris 8/2/12
Obituaries
Gould, Maurice 9/1/10
Handel, Solomon (R. Messing) 4/2/20
Moskovitz, Irving 5/3/15
Nolan, Ray 13/3/39
Spencer, Benjamin 8/2/26

ANCIENT GREEK COINS

Caesarea in Cappadocia (E. Janis) 9/2/15
Gold Daric of Ancient Persia (H. Flower) 9/6/21
Jewish History as Portrayed in Coins — Persia, Alexander the Great, Syria, etc. (A. Hendin) 2/2/24
Nabataean — Judaean Look-Alikes (M. Wacks) 9/3/14
Noah Legend Coin of Apameia, 244-249 AD 4/1/17
Shekel of Tyre (M. Wacks) 12/5/33
Tetradrachms and Staters of Alexander the Great from the Mint at Akko (E. Janis) 5/2/4
Thirty Pieces of Silver — Shekel of Tyre (D. Hendin) 15/2/36

ANCIENT JUDAEOAN COINS

City Coins

Aelia Capitolina — Jerusalem
Coins Allude to Defeat of Bar Kochba (E. Janis) 7/2/25
Hadrian's Founders Type (M. Wacks) 1/3/16
Jerusalem the Holy (E. Janis) 1/2/25
15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/21
Akko-Ptolemais
 Coin of Akko (E. Janis) 7/4/11
 Crocodile Symbol (E. Semmelman) 14/3/26
 Tetradrachms and Staters of Alexander the Great (E. Janis) 5/2/4
 15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/21
Antheodon (E. Janis) 3/3/14
Antipatris (E. Janis) 3/3/14
Apollonia
 Marcus Aurelius Coin (E. Janis) 4/3/17
Ashkelon
 15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/21
Caesarea
 15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/21
Dora (E. Janis) 3/3/15
 15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/21
Eleutheropolis (E. Janis) 3/3/15
 15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/21
Gaza
 15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/21
Hippos (D. Hendin) 11/6/28
Joppa
 15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/21
Neapolis — Nablus (E. Janis) 3/3/14
 Interesting Variety (E. Semmelman) 15/3/15
 15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/21
Nicopolis — Emmaus (E. Janis) 3/3/14
 15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/21
Nysa-Scythopolis — Beth-Shean
 15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/23
Panias — Caesarea Philippi (E. Janis) 3/3/15
 15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/23
Raphia
 — (E. Janis) 3/3/15
 — (D. Hendin) 11/6/28

Sebaste — Samaria

— (E. Janis) 3/3/14
15 Cities (D. Hendin) 11/6/28, 12/3/23
Sepphoris-Diocaesarea
— (E. Janis) 3/3/14
15 Cities (D. Hendin) 10/6/21, 12/3/23
Tiberias
15 Cities (D. Hendin) 12/3/23

General

Antiquities Department Purchases Hoard of 188 City-Coins (D. Genachowski) 7/2/13
Book: Rosenberger Collection of City Coins 6/3/16
Coins and Currency — Palestinian City Coins 8/4/26
State Buys Cache of City Coins found at Migdal 7/3/15

First Revolt

Shekel

ANA Shekel Reprint Misleading 4/4/11
Guide to the Biblical Shekel (B. Hoenig) 15/2/31
How Many Shekels to a Talent? (J. Sporn) 5/2/29
Jewish Shekel (M. Wacks) 1/1/32
New Way to Look at the Thick Silver Shekels (D. Hendin) 12/6/3
Shekel of Israel: Home at Last (B. Hoenig) 14/5/8
Shekalim, Shekel 6/1/10
Silver Shekel Year 5 Brings \$60,000 (R. Messing) 7/2/8

The Shekel

— (E. Janis) 2/3/23
— (D. Hendin) 10/2/63
— (M. Wacks) 12/5/32

Turning Over a New Theory (D. Hendin) 13/5/11

Two Cities — Two Shekalin (H. Schacher) 3/1/12

Half Shekel

Temple Tax (B. Hoenig) 14/6/4
Temple Tribute (D. Hendin) 13/6/24

Quarter Shekel

How the Jews Got Their "Two Bits" — Quarter Shekels (M. Wacks) 3/1/11
Quarter Shekel Comes Home (D. Genachowski) 4/4/24

Quarter Shekel of Year One (A. Ben-David) 6/4/3

Quarter Shekel Returns 5/1/8

Prutah

New Variant of Prutah Coin (R. Larisch) 8/4/21

Prutah of First Revolt (D. Hendin) 9/1/14

Other Denominations

Barbaric Coins of the First Revolt, Years Two and Three (F. Jacobs) 9/5/26
Retrograde Inscriptions on Ancient Jewish Coins (M. Wacks) 6/4/23

Unpublished Coins of First Revolt (A. Reifenberg) 9/4/12
 Zionist Slogans on Ancient Jewish Coins (D. Hendin) 13/2/18

General

Coinage of Judea — First Revolt (P. Zerman) 12/4/20
 Jerusalem Ruins Yield Coins 3/1/4
 Jewish History in Coins (A. Hendin) 3/1/24
 Ancient Hebrew Coin Inscriptions (M. Wacks) 15/6/35
 Ancient Hebrew Letter Forms 1/2/40
 Ancient Minting Errors (D. Hendin) 9/5/19
 Beautiful Ancient Judaean Coins (E. Janis) 12/1/15
 Coinage of Judea — First Revolt (P. Zerman) 12/4/20
 Coinage of Judea Traveling Exhibit for American Numismatic Society (Y. Meshorer) 15/1/24
 Coinage of Judea (P. Zerman) 12/4/13
 Coins of Ancient Israel — Introduction (D. Hendin) 9/2/13
 Dated Ancient Judaean Coins (E. Janis) 11/6/29
 Haifa Museum Exhibits Ancient Jewish Coinage 8/3/31
 How Did They Date Ancient Jewish Coins? (D. Hendin) 10/1/12
 Jerusalem Ruins Yield Coins 3/1/4
 Jewish History in Coins (A. Hendin) 3/1/24
 Noted Collector of Ancient Coins Reveals His Secrets (A. Spaer) 6/4/18
 Numismatics in Israel — Ancient and Modern (A. Kindler) 2/2/11
 Production of Coins in the Ancient World (Y. Meshorer) 4/3/5
 Scope of the Israeli Numismatist (E. Janis) 2/3/13
 Starter Set of Ancient Judaean Coins (M. Wacks) 1/4/21
 Turning Over a New Theory (D. Hendin) 13/5/11
 Type Set of Ancient Judaean Coins (E. Janis) 3/1/6
 What are Barbaric Coins? (D. Hendin) 11/3/36
 139 Quadrantes Equals Half a Shekel Temple Tax (D. Hendin) 13/1/4

ANCIENT JUDAEOAN COINS

Hasmonean

Anchor and "Sun-Wheel" Coin Symbols of Alexander Jannaeus (M. Wacks) 10/4/12
 Beginning of the Hasmonean Coinage (Y. Meshorer) 8/4/23
 Coinage of Jerusalem — Maccabees/Hasmoneans (E. Janis) 13/2/28, 13/3/20

Coinage of Judea — Hasmoneans (P. Zerman) 12/4/16

Coins and Currency — Hasmonean Coinage 6/2/11
 Dated Coins of Alexander Jannaeus (J. Naveh) 2/4/16
 Hasmonean Coins (D. Hendin) 9/3/19
 Israel Free and Captive (D. Hendin) 13/3/30
 Is There an Easy Way to Identify the Small Bronze Prutas of Judah Aristobulus? (E. Janis) 3/4/15

Jewish Coins — 1880 (Reprint) 3/1/27
 Jewish History as Portrayed in Coins (A. Hendin) 2/3/15, 2/4/8
 Menorah Coin of Mattathias (M. Van der Voort) 1/1/28
 Most Desirable Coin of Judaea — Menorah of Antigonus Mattathias (M. Wacks) 10/6/6
 Mysterious Monograms (D. Hendin) 11/2/28
 New Hypothesis about the Chronology of Hasmonean Coinage (H. Hirsch) 5/3/5
 New Theory on Lead Coin of Jannaeus (D. Hendin) 12/1/35
 Poor Widow's Mites — Coin of Alexander Jannaeus? (D. Hendin) 14/3/34
 Retrograde Inscriptions on Ancient Jewish Coins — Antigonus Mattathias (M. Wacks) 6/4/23
 Temple's Holy Implements — Menorah and Showbread Table (D. Hendin) 14/2/18
 Who Issued the First Jewish Coin — Simon Maccabeus? (M. Wacks) 2/1/16

Herodian

Agrippa's Agorah (B. Hoenig) 13/4/20
 Coinage of Judea — Herodians (P. Zerman) 12/4/18
 Coinage of the Herodian Dynasty 6/3/4
 Coins Tell of Ancient Herodian Rulers (D. Hendin) 12/5/31
 Herod: Fact and Fancy (D. Hendin) 14/4/23
 Herod's Cruelest Son — Archelaus (D. Hendin) 14/5/21
 Herodian Coins (D. Hendin) 9/3/19
 He Killed John the Baptist — Herod Antipas (D. Hendin) 14/6/22
 Jewish History in Coins (A. Hendin) 2/4/8
 Mint of King Herod the Great (Y. Meshorer) 1/2/29
 Rare Portrait of Agrippa I (D. Hendin) 10/4/26
 Seafaring Coin Themes (Y. Meshorer) 1/1/16
 The King Who Killed James — Herod Agrippa I (D. Hendin) 15/3/32
 The Second King Agrippa (D. Hendin) 15/4/32
 Unpublished Coins of Herod Philip II and Agrippa II (A. Reifenberg) 9/4/11

Persian/Philisto-Arabian Period

- Coinage of Jerusalem, Pre-Hasmonean (E. Janis) 13/1/8
- Coins and Currency, Persian Period 6/2/10
- First Jewish Coinage — Yehud
 - (M. Wacks) 2/1/12
 - Who Issued? (M. Wacks) 2/4/10
 - (S. Needleman) 5/2/30
- Unique Yehud Coin Presented to Magnes Museum (M. Wacks) 3/3/11
- Unusual Coin of the Persian Period Struck in Palestine (Y. Meshorer) 5/4/6

Pre-Coinage Weights

- Coinage and Currency, Pre-monetary Period 6/2/8
- Coins of Judea, 1879 Reprint 2/2/27
- Development of the Monetary System in Pre-Exilic Palestine (E. Mendelsohn) 2/2/17, 2/3/17, 13/3/40
- Gould-en Notebook (M. Gould) 9/1/11
- How Many Shekels to a Talent? (J. Sporn) 5/2/29
- Jewish History as Portrayed in Coins (A. Hendin) 2/1/25
- Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin (J. Newman) 1/2/12
- No Coins in the Old Testament (D. Hendin) 12/2/28
- Shekalim, Shekel 6/1/8
- The Shekel (M. Wacks) 12/5/32
- The Shekel of Israel: Home at Last (B. Hoenig) 14/5/8

Procurators

- Coinage of Judea — Procurators (P. Zerman) 12/4/19
- Coinage and Currency — Procurators 6/4/12
- Jewish History in Coins (A. Hendin) 3/1/24
- Mel Wacks Disputes Shroud of Turin Coin Theory 15/2/25
- New Variant of Coin of Procurator Gratus Reported (R. Larisch) 8/1/24
- 139 Coins Found at Ein-Gedi (D. Hendin) 10/5/21

Second Revolt

- Coinage of Judea — Second Revolt (P. Zerman) 12/4/23
- Coinage and Currency — Bar Kochba War 6/4/12
- Coins of the Second Revolt (M. Wacks) 3/2/9
- Deceptive “Bar Cochba Coin” Exposed (H. Kreindler/M. Wacks) 6/3/9
- Dr. Mildenberg Lectures on Bar Kochba Coinage (D. Genachowski) 7/2/12
- Israel Free and Captive (D. Hendin) 13/4/39
- Jewish History in Coins (A. Hendin) 3/1/26
- Medal Honors Find (of Bar Kochba Letters) in Desert Cave (S. Needleman) 7/1/4

- Retrograde Inscriptions on Ancient Jewish Coins (M. Wacks) 6/4/23
- Unpublished Coins of Second Revolt (A. Reifenberg) 9/4/12
- Zionist Slogans on Ancient Jewish Coins (D. Hendin) 13/2/18

ANCIENT ROMAN COINS

Judea Capta Series

- Coinage of Judea — Judaea Capta (P. Zerman) 12/4/23
- Coins and Currency — Judaea Capta 8/4/26
- Even the Copies are Copied — Judaea Capta (M. Wacks) 5/2/19
- How to Find an Authentic Judaea Capta (E. Janis) 5/1/20
- Israel Free and Captive (D. Hendin) 13/4/38
- Jewish History in Coins (A. Hendin) 3/1/25
- Judaea Capta — Capta Judaea (L. Kanitz) 4/4/9
- Judaea Capta Variant Located (E. Janis) 4/1/2
- Judaea Capta Coins: Early Publicity Campaign (D. Hendin) 10/3/19
- Notes on Judaea Capta Coins (Y. Meshorer) 2/1/7
- Victoria Navalis Coins (E. Mendelsohn) 7/3/11

Other Judaean Related Coins

- A Coin that Jesus Held - Tribute Penny (D. Hendin) 15/1/32
- Bronze Medallion of Philippus Minted in Ancient Israel 7/1/7
- Dating of the “Judaea” Coins of Hadrian (E. Mendelsohn) 7/2/19
- Hadrian’s “Adventui Judaea” (M. Wacks) 3/3/17
- Infamous “Calumnia” Tax (E. Janis) 1/4/12
- Jewish History in Coins - Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian (A. Hendin) 3/1/25
- “Rex Aretas” Denarius (M. Wacks) 9/6/17
- Roman Legion Countermarks (D. Hendin) 9/6/14
- Trajan, Commander of the Tenth Legion (R. Leonard) 14/2/22

ARCHAEOLOGY

- A Numismatic Life in Eretz Israel (Y. Meshorer) 14/5/18
- AINA Member Discovers Remnants of Full-Length Statue of Hadrian 8/3/2
- Ancient Coin Cache Found in Haifa Dates to 602-610 AD 5/2/34
- Ancient Coins Found at Maccabean Site 4/4/10
- Byzantine Solidus Coins Found in Haifa (E. Semmelman) 7/4/6
- Dig at Temple Wall Yields Coins from Herod to Julian 6/1/22
- Exhibit in Haifa Shows Byzantine Hoard 9/3/16

Hoard in the Galilee from 400 BC (D. Genachowski) 5/1/18
 Hoard of 7,811 Roman Coins Found in Lincolnshire, England (Dr. E. Klimowsky) 15/1/21
 How the Dead Sea Scrolls were Found (H. Frank) 9/2/8, 9/3/7, 9/4/20
 Jerusalem Ruins Yield Coins of the First Revolt 3/1/4
 Lion Seal of Megiddo 12/1/18
 Lost, Found—Ark, Religious Coinage Symbol (B. Weintraub) 15/1/22
 Skeleton Found in Bar Kochba Hideout (S. Shapiro) 13/5/25
 Synagogue Poor Box Yields Roman Coins 4/1/31
 Tennessee Burial Grounds Create Furor 3/4/14
 University of Missouri Dig Uncovers Ptolemy II and Other Hellenistic Coinage 5/4/29
 2500 Years of Jerusalem Bureaucrats (Seals) Uncovered at Temple Wall Dig Site 15/6/23

BIBLICAL NUMISMATICS

Old Testament

Bible Quotations on Mormon Coins and Paper Money (R. Leonard) 13/1/20
 Biblical References and Verse Numbering on Medals of Israel (C. Gottlieb) 10/5/26
 Coins Reflect Old Testament Worship (D. Hendin) 12/4/34
 Genesis: A Medallic Photo Essay (M. Wacks/E. Rubin) 7/3/16
 Guide to the Biblical Shekel (B. Hoenig) 15/2/31, 15/3/27
 Honest Weights (J. Newman) 13/6/32
 Midrash Coins (B. Hoenig) 12/2/6, 13/5/14
 Temple Tax—Half Shekel —(D. Hendin) 13/6/24
 —(B. Hoenig) 14/6/4

New Testament

Money Changers (M. Wacks) 11/6/36
 Some New Testament Coins (D. Hendin) 11/4/36
 Shroud of Turin Coin Theory Disputed (M. Wacks) 15/2/25
 Thirty Pieces of Silver
 Blood Money of Masada (M. Fishgold/L. Heiman) 13/1/12
 Judas Shekel (J. Hersh) 13/3/10
 Shekel of Tyre —(M. Wacks) 12/5/33
 —(D. Hendin) 15/2/36
 Tribute Penny —(M. Wacks) 11/5/14
 —(D. Hendin) 15/1/32
 Widow's Mite —(E. Janis) 3/1/20
 —(D. Hendin) 14/3/34

COUNTERFEITS AND COPIES

Ancient Coins

AINA Board Takes Action on Imitation "Ancient" Coins 5/1/7
 Bronze Bar Kochba "Tetradrachm" Copy (E. Janis) 12/3/11
 Dated Portrait of Augustus 10/2/86
 Deceptive "Bar Cochba Coin" Exposed (H. Kreindler/M. Wacks) 6/3/9
 Detecting Forgeries of "Ancient" Coins (D. Hendin) 9/4/25
 Even the Copies are Copied—Judaea Capta (M. Wacks) 5/2/19
 Fantasy Bar Kochba Denarius (E. Janis) 7/3/21
 Ministry of Tourism Copies of Shekel and Bar Kochba Bronze (D. Genachowski) 7/1/16

False Shekels

False Shekels (M. Wacks) 12/5/34
 False Shekels from the Renaissance (Y. Meshorer) 13/2/12
 Jewish History in Coins—False Shekels (A. Hendin) 3/2/14
 Judas Shekel (J. Hersh) 13/3/10
 Purpose and Use of the Shekel Medals (B. Kisch) 11/6/34
 Shekel of Israel: Home at Last (B. Hoenig) 14/5/10

Modern Coins

Coins One Can Draw With (G. Baron) 5/1/21
 Forged 1960 Eight Grains Agora Pattern (E. Semmelman) 8/3/21
 Insidious Counterfeit Gold Herzl (E. Janis) 8/1/14
 Israeli Police Stumble on Alleged Fake Coin Operation 9/4/14

Paper Money

Fake Dollars in Israel 9/2/27
 Operation Bernhard —(J. Sachis) 9/2/18
 —(M. Zerder) 15/5/46
 Soldier-Created Monies Passed as Currency in Palestine 1946-1948 3/3/22

HISTORY OF ISRAEL

Bombardment of Akko in 1840 (E. Semmelman) 5/1/11
 Entebbe—Operation Jonathan (M. Pearlman) 10/1/3
 Keren Hayesod: Worldwide Movement in Action (S. Haffner) 3/4/4
 Maccabees (M. Gould) 4/3/15
 Masada—in the Year 73 It Became Immortal 14/2/6
 Sinai—Strategic Peninsula Through Centuries 15/4/14
 Six Day War (N. Sobel) 1/2/21
 Tale of Three Missionaries (D. Genachowski) 11/3/14

HOLOCAUST NUMISMATICS

Bolzano Concentration Camp Notes (Dr. G. Söllner) 15/5/17
"Brabag" Notes (D. Atsmony) 15/5/23
Buchenwald Memorial Commemorative Coin Issued by E. Germany—1972 (H. Flower) 15/4/17
Cyprus Canteen Chits 1947-1948
—(S. Olson) 11/6/8
—(S. Haffner) 13/1/22
Directory of Known Issues of Concentration Camp and Displaced Persons Centers of World War II (G. Gilbert) 15/5/51
Displaced Persons Camps' Banknotes (S. Halperin) 5/4/3
Frankenhuis, Maurice (1894-1969) 2/3/16
Ghetto Money of Nazi Holocaust (S. Feller) 15/5/41
Haavara Certificates of 1933 (F. Frankl) 10/5/11
Holocaust Chronology (1933-1945) 15/5/4
Holocaust Museum—Ghetto Fighters House—Established by Kibbutz
Medals Issued 7/3/6, 8/2/23
Kien, Peter: He Created "Moses Kronen" 15/5/34
Korczak, Dr. Janusz of Warsaw Immortalized on Medal (N. Sobel) 13/6/30
Litzmannstadt Ghetto and its Money (D. Atsmony) 12/3/35
Litzmannstadt Ghetto, Inside Story of 10 Pfennig Coin (A. Piwowarczyk) 12/3/37
Lodz Ghetto Money (L. Sarakoff) 1/4/24
Lodz Ghetto 10 Pfennig Bank-Note (A. Piwowarczyk) 11/5/30
Mauthausen Death Camp and its Paper Money (Dr. A. York) 15/5/47
Money of the "Final Solution" (F. Frankl) 10/4/18
More on World War II Ghetto Money (Dr. H. Fenigstein) 15/5/35
Netherland Concentration Camps Scrip Paper Money (Dr. A. York) 15/5/24
Operation Bernhard (M. Zerder) 15/5/46
Prisoner of War Monies and Medals—Concentration Camps and Displaced Persons Camps (A. Slabaugh) 15/5/6
Reichsbank Scrips (F. Frankl) 10/5/18
Six Million Martyrs Commemorative Medal (M. Frankenhuis) 1/1/21
Star of David on Camp Notes (Y. Beresiner) 15/5/20
Theresienstadt's Bleak Bank Note Story (E. Sknouril) 15/5/27
Theresienstadt Notes (J. Fisher) 3/2/6
Theresienstadt Opera Ticket (F. Frankl) 10/2/62
"The Ghetto is Fighting" Banknote of Poland (Dr. A. York) 15/5/35
Unknown Tokens of World War II with Magen David (S. Matalon) 15/2/35

Wiesenthal, Simon Center for Holocaust Studies 12/5/36

World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Israel (N. Sobel) 14/2/12
Yishuv Volunteers Medal 8/3/12

ISRAEL COMMEMORATIVE COINS

Chanukah

1958 Law is Light
—2/1/13
Significance of Eight Pointed Star (E. Janis) 5/3/20
1960 Henrietta Szold, Queen of Israel's Coinage (B. Hoenig) 13/3/28
1962 Italian Lamp
Rare Spelling Error Found 5/3/15
Mint Error (S. Haffner) 12/4/43
"Hanuniya" Error (J. Meroz) 13/3/47
1972 Russian Lamp 5/4/11
1974 Damascus Lamp 7/3/34, 7/4/27
1976 American Lamp
—8/4/12
U.S. Made Hanukkah Located 9/3/26
Sold Out Within 10 Days 9/6/15
1977 Jerusalem Lamp
—10/6/26
Berne Proof Die Varieties (S. Haffner) 11/5/28, 12/5/12
1978 French Lamp 11/6/25
1979 Egyptian Lamp 13/1/27
1980 Corfu Lamp, First Sheqel Denomination (N. Sobel) 13/6/25
1981 Polish Lamp 14/5/37, 14/6/8

General

1958-1961 Description 1/4/37
1958-1962 Description (S. Brown) 7/4/2
1958-1963 Mintage Figures 1/3/7
Chanukah Gelt: Jewish Tradition or Pagan Practice? (B. Hoenig) 15/6/27
Exciting History Behind Chanukah Coin (R. Messing) 4/4/15
Holiday
—1/4/35
Tradition Continued (E. Rochette) 14/6/10
—(M. Fishgold) 14/6/11

Gold

1960-1969 Gold Coins of Israel (W. Thompson) 2/4/28
1960 Insidious Counterfeit Gold Herzl (E. Janis) 8/1/14
1962 Weizmann
Found Without "Mem" (S. Haffner) 5/2/20
50 and 100 Pound Commemoratives (M. Gould) 8/3/14
Story 10/6/18

1982 Jabotinsky Centenary 500 Sheqels
13/5/3
General
Color of Gold Coins (E. Janis) 9/4/24
Commemorative Coins—Still a Sound
Buy (J. Morgenstern) 14/1/3
Do All Israel Gold Coins Contain the
Same Amount of Fine Gold? (E.
Janis) 8/3/15
Gold Content of Israel's Coins and Med-
als (M. Morgenstern) 10/2/60
Israel Gold Coin Breakthrough—Import-
ation to the U.S. (M. Wacks) 2/4/6
Market Evaluation (S. Haffner) 12/6/5
Metallic Value of the Gold Coins of
Israel (E. Schuman) 10/6/3
Modern Gold Sets Auction Record (E.
Semmelman) 5/3/24
New Mintage Figures (S. Haffner)
7/2/18
Recovery Noted in Coin Market (J. Mor-
genstern) 13/6/18

Independence Day Anniversary

10th-19th 1958-1967 Five Pound Com-
memoratives 1/1/42
10th-1958 Can You Tell the Proof From its
Wooden Box? (E. Janis) 3/4/15
15th-1963 Seafaring Striking Error (Y. Me-
shorer) 5/3/26
20th-1968 Jerusalem 1/1/11, 1/3/7
21st-1969 What is Significance of Kof on
Some Shalom Coins? (E. Janis) 10/3/15
22nd-1970 Mikve Israel Agricultural
School 3/2/20, 11/1/26
23rd-1971 Freedom Die Varieties (P.
Sperber) 8/4/28
24th-1972 Aircraft Industry
25th-1973 Plans for New Coins and Medals
5/3/2
26th-1974 Hebrew Language Revival
—7/2/9, 7/3/9
Die Variety Found (D. Paszamant/A.
Greenberg) 8/3/3
Error? (B. Hoenig) 9/1/12, 10/5/15
27th-1975 Bonds 8/2/23, 8/2/27, 8/3/27
28th-1976 Strength 9/2/34
29th-1977 Brotherhood in Jerusalem
—10/2/56
Predicts Sadat's Mission to Jerusalem
(B. Hoenig) 11/4/34
30th-1978 People Reunited 11/3/42
31st-1979 Mother and Child 12/3/41
32nd-1980 Peace Treaty 13/3/49
33rd-1981 People of the Book
Artists Win Coin Design Contest
13/6/27 —14/3/6
34th-1982 Edmond Rothschild 15/2/3

Pidyon Haben

1970 2/2/4, 2/3/21
1972 5/1/33
1974 6/4/33
1975 7/4/27
1976 8/4/12
Alas, No More Pidyon Haben Coin (B.
Hoenig) 11/1/14
Coin Specifications (E. Janis) 12/6/24
Redemption of the First-Born (Dr. B.
Yesner) 15/2/22
Timeless Commemorative (B. Hoenig)
14/1/6

Purim

Commemoratives (E. Janis) 7/1/19
Holiday 1/4/35

Special Issues

1967 Victory
—1/2/21
Variations (J. McQuaide) 2/4/14
Varieties (E. Janis) 5/4/21
Victory at Western Wall (J. Garfield)
11/3/24
1971 Let My People Go
—4/3/14
Berne Proof Die Variety (S. Haffner)
8/1/21, 12/4/43
Thick and Thin Planchets 4/4/33
1980 Jabotinsky Centenary 13/5/3
1982 Qumran 15/6/3
How Many Commemoratives Left? (M. Druck)
14/3/4, 14/4/44

ISRAEL MEDALS - OFFICIAL

Bar Mitzvah
Miniature (S. Haffner) 4/4/10
Twelve Tribes Featured (A. Schmeidler)
8/1/3
Beautification of Jerusalem 2/2/13
Beth Hatefutsoth - Museum of the Diaspora
11/5/34, 14/2/11
B'nai B'rith (J. Garfield) 12/2/20
Christian Pilgrims 12/5/37
City Coin-Medal Series 1/3/30
Dagon Grain Silos at Haifa 14/3/28
Diamond Industry Die Variety
—(J. J. Van Grover) 10/6/4
—(S. Haffner) 12/5/14
Einstein Centenary 12/3/23, 12/4/37
El Al Reissued 9/3/22
Entebbe Raid 9/4/16
Find in Desert Cave (S. Needleman) 7/1/4
Gates of Jerusalem Opens Holy Land Series
(D. Alexander) 14/6/15
Gush Ezion Bar-Mitzvah (D. Alexander)
14/4/42

Habima National Theatre
 —Chana Robinah Featured (E. Semmelman) 10/3/22
 —Yiddish Theatre (E. Baruch) 15/2/11

Hadassah
 School of Dentistry Alpha Omega Medal (N. Gitlin) 5/1/4
 University Hospital 8/4/8

Hai-Bar (Holy Land Conservation Fund) 7/2/34

Harp Medal by Chagall (M. Daniel) 10/2/47

Hebrew University 50th Anniversary 9/1/24

“Honor the Elders” 15/16/13

Israel/Canada Friendship Medals Melted 1/4/15

Israeli Banks (D. Genachowski) 6/4/14

Israel Food Industry 12/5/39

Israel’s Industry 12/2/38

Israel Liberata
 —(S. Haffner) 1/1/29
 —(W. Thompson) 2/1/9
 —(E. Janis) 2/4/15

Patterns and Test Strikes (S. Haffner) 12/2/14

Israel-Mexico Numismatic Exhibit 12/4/49

Israel Teachers’ Union 75th Anniversary 12/1/31

Jabotinsky Centenary-1980 13/5/13

Jaffa Coin-Medal (E. Schuman) 11/3/34

Jerusalem International Numismatic Meeting - 1979 12/3/26

Jewish Agency Jubilee 12/5/18

Jewish Legion 10/6/24

Jewish Settlement Activities Centenary 1882-1982 15/6/12

Keren Hayesod Jubilee - From Oil Painting to Medal 3/1/16

Liberation
 Pattern (E. Semmelman) 4/3/26
 Dating (E. Janis) 6/3/15

Magen David Adom Jubilee 13/6/36

Masada Reissued in Silver 9/3/22

Medal of Honor Variety (A. Schmeidler) 7/4/4

Metal Working Industry 9/1/18

Operation Jonathan 10/1/8

ORT School of Engineering (E. Janis) 10/1/13

Payis 4/2/16

Peace - 1979 12/5/20

Pidyon Haben - 1982 15/6/16

Shaare Zedek Medical Center 12/5/15

Shema Yisrael 13/4/5, 13/5/17

Technion Honored 9/1/20

Temple Mount 15/1/33

Terra Sancta
 Golda Meir Presents to U.S. Secret Service Guards 4/1/14
 Pattern (S. Haffner) 12/4/41

United Jewish Appeal
 Silver Medal (J. Garfein) 10/1/25
 Commemorates 1977 Convention in Jerusalem (S. Matalon) 11/1/11

Villages in Western Galilee 11/1/30

Wedding 12/6/22

Weizmann Centenary 9/1/23

WIZO 4/2/16

Yad Vashem Presentation (S. Birnbaum) 11/1/3

Yishuv Volunteers 8/3/12

ZIM 4/2/16

25th Anniversary Platinum Medal
 —5/3/2
 —(G. Gilbert) 6/1/14

Test Strike (S. Haffner) 12/4/42

General
 Amended Listing of Presentation Medals (S. Haffner) 5/2/31

Birth of a Medal - Kretschmer Mint (I. Zedaka) 3/2/29

Commemorative Coin-Medals, An Abandoned Idea (A. Kindler) 1/3/5

Final Mintage of Discontinued Medals 8/4/13, 9/2/32

First and Only Israel Government Medal Given to Army Personnel (S. Haffner) 5/1/15

Gold Content of Israel’s Coins and Medals (M. Morgenstern) 10/2/60

How Can You Tell if a Medal is an Official State Medal? (E. Janis) 7/4/11

Jews and the Art of the Medal - Zvi Narkiss, Shamir Bros., Rothschild & Lippmann, Jacob Zim, Josef Bass (D. Friedenberg) 13/1/46

Shamir Brothers - Artists 6/1/16

State Medals, Commissioned Medals and Private Medals (E. Janis) 9/16/16

Studio Roli: A History 5/2/21

Test Strikes of Various State Medals (S. Haffner) 12/3/12

ISRAEL MEDALS - UNOFFICIAL

Ashdod (S. Matalon) 10/2/59

Banks of Israel (D. Genachowski) 6/4/14

Bar-Ilan University \$10,000 Medal (R. Messing) 5/4/15

Base Command (S. Haffner) 5/4/12

Biblical Prophesy Conference (S. Haffner) 6/4/30

Building Workers Union (S. Haffner) 6/2/15, 9/4/18

Cancer Association of Israel (S. Haffner) 6/4/31

City Medals of Israel (S. Haffner) 6/1/13

Defense Forces of Israel Presentation Medal to U.S. Galaxies Crews—1971 (H. Flower) 7/4/22

Disabled Veterans, Haifa (S. Haffner) 5/4/13

Ezioni Brigade Convention—1968 (S. Haffner) 5/3/17

Fire Fighting Service of Israel (S. Haffner) 6/2/14

Gaza Sports Union (S. Haffner) 5/3/16

Ghetto Fighters House 7/3/7

Golani Division 25th Anniversary—1973 (D. Genachowski) 7/1/16
 Hagana Honor Guard—1960 (S. Haffner) 5/3/17
 Hapoel Games—1971 (S. Haffner) 6/3/13
 Har Etzion (B. Hoenig) 12/1/3
 Hezelia High School 50th Anniversary (S. Haffner) 6/4/31
 Israel Numismatic Society (H. Flower) 11/6/26
 Jerusalem Elections—1969 (S. Haffner) 6/4/30
 Jerusalem March—1974 (E. Levy) 8/1/20, 9/1/22
 Jerusalem March—1976 (E. Levy) 10/1/29
 Jerusalem Panorama (H. Flower) 8/3/5
 Jewish Lawyers and Jurists Second Int'l Congress—1973 (D. Genachowski) 7/1/17
 Jewish National Fund
 —(S. Matalon) 5/3/31
 —(A. Edelstein) 14/3/19
 Kaplan Award (S. Haffner) 9/4/18
 Kiryat Gan (S. Matalon) 10/2/59
 4th Maccabiah Games—1953 (H. Abramowitz) 12/4/39
 7th Maccabiah Games—1965 (S. Haffner) 6/3/12
 8th Maccabiah Games—1969 (S. Haffner) 6/3/13
 Migdal Haemek (S. Haffner) 5/4/13
 Military Medals (S. Haffner) 10/2/67
 Pardess Chana Agricultural School (S. Haffner) 5/3/18
 Petach Tikva (S. Haffner) 5/3/17
 Philatelic Exhibition (S. Lachman) 15/3/22
 Ramat Gan Paratroopers (S. Haffner) 4/1/5
 Road Security Project—1971 (S. Haffner) 5/3/16
 Shalom Meyer Tower—Tel Aviv (S. Haffner) 5/4/12
 Shekem Army Supply (S. Haffner) 5/4/12
 Sheker Officers School (S. Haffner) 5/3/17
 Szold Award (S. Haffner) 9/4/18
 Tel Aviv (S. Matalon) 7/1/15
 Timna Mines—1959
 —(S. Haffner) 4/2/23
 —(A. Lerner) 4/4/20
 United Jewish Appeal 20th Anniversary—1958 (S. Haffner) 6/4/30
 Volcanic Institute—1971
 —(S. Haffner) 6/2/14
 —(E. Schuman) 11/5/8
 Wailing Wall
 —(S. Haffner) 4/2/22
 —(A. Lerner) 4/4/20
 Water Resources (S. Haffner) 9/4/23
 We Are Here 11/2/14
 Weingarten Orphanage, Jerusalem (D. Genachowski) 5/2/17
 Yom Kippur War
 —(E. Semmelman) 7/3/20
 —8/2/9

ISRAEL PAPER MONEY
 1948 Issues (S. Haffner) 1/1/29
 1953 250 Prutah Notes (L. Holland) 9/5/24
 1972 Issues 5/1/2
 Bank of Israel Issues Two Banknotes Honoring Montefiori and Herzl 8/2/20
 Ben-Gurion Honored on 500 Pound Note (S. Lachman) 10/3/3
 Bialik Honored on 10 Pound Banknote 3/4/2
 Comparison Israel Currency Numbering System (C. Rosenblum) 9/6/26
 Dates of Issue of Israel's Banknotes (S. Lachman) 10/4/9
 Extraordinary Error 10 Sheqel Banknote (J. Meroz) 15/1/12
 Five Pound Note Facing Extinction? 10/4/11
 Fractional Notes of Israel (S. Lachman) 10/5/3
 Internal Currency of the Israel Kibbutz (S. Olson) 11/3/3
 Israeli Dinar that Never Was—Occupation Money (D. Genachowski) 12/3/15
 Jabotinsky 100 Sheqel Banknote
 May Add More Currency Confusion (S. Maoz) 13/6/9
 —(S. Lachman) 14/2/16
 Lulav and Ethrog Symbols on Back of 50 Pound Note (E. Janis) 5/3/19
 Ministry of Finance Promissory Note—1958 (E. Schuman) 13/2/20
 More than Meets the Eye in Israel Bank Note Series (S. Lachman) 10/1/9
 Original Artwork of Shamir Brothers for the 1958-1960 Currency of Israel (J.J. Van Grover) 13/3/22
 Secret Money of the New State—1948 3/1/14
 Security Points on 1948 Israel Notes (S. Halperin) 9/1/25
 Suspicious Israel Notes Not "Bogus" 6/2/13
 Szold on New 5 Pound Note 9/2/25
 Trends in Paper Money, 1948-1960 (S. Haffner) 1/3/12
 Two New Varieties of Ben Gurion 50 Sheqel Banknotes (S. Lachman) 15/4/8
 Weizmann on 50 Pound Note (S. Lachman) 11/3/38
 What is Meant by Fractional Currency? (E. Janis) 8/4/15

ISRAEL TOKENS

Army Scrip for Army Stores 4/3/19
 Defense Force Petrol Coupons (S. Olson) 12/2/12
 Emergency Small Change Paper Tokens 1942-1954 (S. Haffner) 13/5/21, 14/1/31
 Jerusalem Water Tokens (M. Lew-Ran) 11/5/13
 Kibbutz Tokens (M. Gould) 6/1/26
 Neturei Karta - Mea Shearim Tokens (S. Olson) 12/6/6
 Phone Tokens Disappearing 7/2/14
 Shekem Tokens for Israel Defense Forces (S. Olson) 12/1/6

Sheraton Shekels 13/6/12, 14/2/35
 Ship Tokens of Shoham Maritime Services
 and Sommerfin Line (S. Halperin) 9/5/17
 Shoham Tokens (S. Matalon) 14/2/34
 Subway Tokens—Haifa (E. Semmelman) 5/3/3
 Tea and Coffee Tokens of the Staff of Bus
 Company (D. Genachowski) 5/2/25
 Trilingual Hever One Mil Bus Token (S. Mata-
 lon) 11/6/32
 Transportation Tickets (A. Weinberg) 8/4/2
 Troops Use Vouchers 7/1/15
 Wacks' Soap Center of Haifa 1930-1955 (H.
 Flower) 5/2/11
 Yeshiva Tokens of the Joint Distribution Com-
 mittee (S. Halperin) 4/1/8

ISRAEL TRADE COINS

Israel's First Coins

1948 25 Mils
 —(S. Haffner) 1/1/29
 —(E. Janis) 2/1/13
 —(F. Bertram) 12/3/31
 General
 —(E. Weitz) 3/3/8
 —(S. Lachman) 9/6/10

Prutah Series

One Prutah 1/3/28
 5 Prutah 1/4/29
 10 Prutah 2/1/28, 2/2/35
 25 Prutah 2/4/23, 2/3/31
 50 Prutah 3/1/32
 100 Prutah
 —3/2/30
 1959 Utrecht Die (E. Janis) 5/4/22
 250 Prutah
 —4/2/12
 Israel's Oddball Coin (B. Hoenig)
 10/3/14
 500 Prutah
 —4/3/22
 Israel's First Commemorative (B.
 Hoenig) 9/5/22

Agora/Lira Series

1962 5 and 10 Agorot (M. de Vries) 3/3/21
 1974 All Copper One Lira (E. Baruch)
 14/1/35
 1976 5 Agorot Aluminum (S. Lachman)
 9/5/20
 1977 10 Agorot Aluminum (S. Lachman)
 11/2/5
 1978 5 Lirot (S. Lachman) 11/6/27, 12/1/19

Sheqel Series

New 5 Sheqalim (S. Lachman) 14/5/29
 New 10 Sheqalim (S. Lachman) 15/2/10

Specimen Sets

1963-1968 1/2/14
 1963 (M. de Vries) 4/1/12
 1968 1/1/23
 1969 1/3/4
 1971 3/4/31
 1973 6/1/12
 1975 8/2/22

1976 9/3/25
 1980 14/6/19
 1981 14/2/4
 1982 15/2/5

Mintage Figures

1974 (S. Lachman) 8/3/11
 1975 (S. Lachman) 9/5/31
 1981 (S. Lachman) 15/6/24

Errors/Varieties

Errors
 1961 10 Agorot So-Called "Patcha" Er-
 ror (S. Lachman) 14/1/11
 1963 Agora Presentation Set (E. Rubin)
 8/3/24

Varieties

Varieties
 1949 25 Mil (E. Janis) 1/4/11
 1949 Prutot Coins "With Pearl" and
 "Without Pearl"
 —(E. Janis) 4/4/26
 —(Dr. R. Larisch) 8/1/23
 1960 One Agora (S. Haffner) 2/2/20
 1962 One Agora, Third Variety
 (S. Schatz/E. Janis) 5/3/20
 1962 5 Agorot
 Variances (A. Reid/E. Kempler)
 3/3/19
 Large and Small Dates (E. Janis)
 4/3/17
 1963 One Lira Berne Die (M. Zerder)
 2/4/17
 1964 One Agora with Die Break (E.
 Janis) 4/1/15
 1967 and 1968 One Lira (R. Sidener)
 1/2/36
 1974 One Pound (D. Basker) 14/3/25,
 15/4/29
 Collecting Trade Coin Varieties (M.
 Gould) 4/1/13
 Further Varieties in the One Lira Series
 (S. Lachman) 7/3/22

Patterns/Trial Strikes

1948 and 1949 Patterns, Trials Veiled in
 Mystery (D. Alexander) 9/5/3
 1949 25 Mils
 Brass Trial Strike (R. Weber) 2/2/23
 Unique Brass Pattern (M. Zerder) 6/2/22
 Pattern Pieces (A. Reich) 11/3/37
 1949 25 Pruta
 "Specimen" Received by Israel Muse-
 um 6/2/15
 "Specimen" Struck in Aluminum
 8/1/11
 1958 250 Pruta
 Silver Pattern (E. Janis) 8/2/19
 Tombac Pattern (J. Meroz) 12/2/3
 1960 One Agora Eight Grains Pattern
 Forged (E. Semmelman) 8/3/21
 Israel's Patterns, Trial Pieces and Re-
 jected Designs (S. Haffner) 11/6/16,
 12/1/10, 12/2/13, 12/3/12
 General
 Assembling a Set of Trade Coins (E.
 Janis) 12/2/36

JEWISH COIN SYMBOLS

Ark, Lost and Found (B. Weintraub) 15/1/22
Lion of Judah on Half Shekel Trade Coin (B. Hoenig) 14/6/7
Maritime
—(Y. Meshorer) 1/1/6
—(A. Kindler) 4/4/5
—(R. Stieglitz) 10/2/32
—(B. Hoenig) 11/2/21
Menorah (M. Wacks) 13/1/28
Pomegranate (B. Hoenig) 11/5/3
Seven Kinds of Fruit (E. Janis) 11/5/17
Star of David
—(B. Odesser) 6/1/32
—(E. Janis) 7/3/21
—(J. Hersh) 14/2/25
—(J. Hersh) 14/3/38
Temple's Holy Implements—Menorah and Table of Showbread (D. Hendin) 14/2/18

JEWISH PERSONALITIES ON COINS MEDALS AND PAPER MONEY

Bar Kochba, Simon (M. Kessler) 13/4/31
Begin, Menachem
—11/5/20
—(H. Flower) 15/4/17
Beiliss, Mendel
—(S. Haffner) 4/1/4
—(A. Lerner) 4/4/20
Ben Gurion, David
—(D. Genachowski) 7/1/17
—7/4/19
—(S. Lachman) 10/3/3
Benjamin, Judah P.
—(H. Flower) 3/3/12
—(R. Grad) 9/1/17
—(D. Paszamant) 15/3/13
Ben-Zvi, Yitzhak (D. Genachowski) 4/2/9
Brandeis, Louis (M. Wacks) 12/6/14
Columbus, Christopher ??? 12/4/10
Cremieux, Adolphe (E. Semmelman) 13/1/26
De Sola Pool, Rev. David 3/4/8, 4/1/26
Disraeli, Benjamin
—(E. Semmelman) 10/3/21
—(B. Druck) 14/2/9
Ehrlich, Paul (E. Semmelman) 11/2/16
Einstein, Albert
—(M. Wacks) 4/1/16
—12/3/23, 12/4/37
—(M. Wacks) 12/6/13
—(N. Sobel) 13/6/6
—(S. Needleman) 13/6/13
—(L. Chernick) 13/6/17
—(H. Flower) 13/6/19
—(E. Baruch) 13/6/22
—(D. Paszamant) 15/2/7
—(H. Flower) 15/4/18
Eshkol, Levi 1/1/13, 2/1/4
Fiedler, Arthur (H. Flower) 6/2/17
Gershwin, George (M. Wacks) 12/6/15
Gratz, Rebecca (M. Wacks) 14/2/14

Halevy, Daniel (E. Semmelman) 15/2/6
Heine, Heinrich (D. Paszamant) 15/2/7
Herzl, Theodor
—(E. Janis) 3/3/23
—8/2/20
—(E. Janis) 9/2/15
Houdini, Harry (E. Baruch) 14/4/21
Jabotinsky, Vladimir
—(D. Schecter) 11/6/5
—13/5/3
—(B. Frank) 13/5/5
—(S. Lachman) 14/2/16
Josephus, Flavius (E. Baruch) 13/5/18
Korczak, Janusz (D. Paszamant) 15/2/7
Lehman, Herbert H. (M. Wacks) 12/6/17
Luxembourg, Rosa (D. Paszamant) 15/2/7
Magnes, Judah (M. Wacks) 12/6/12
Maimonides 13/6/26
Marx, Karl (D. Paszamant) 15/2/7
Meir, Golda
—12/1/16
—(M. Wacks) 12/6/20
Mendoza, Daniel (E. Baruch) 15/6/4
Montefiori, Sir Moses 8/2/20
Morgenthau Sr., Henry
—(R. Grad) 9/3/20
—(E. Schuman) 11/4/37
Popper, Julius
—(D. Friedenberg) 3/14/20
—(R. Grad) 9/4/10
—(H. Flower) 9/6/22
—(E. Baruch) 13/1/18
Reinhardt, Max
—(E. Semmelman) 13/5/15
—(D. Paszamant) 15/2/7
Rothschild, Edmond 15/2/3
Salk, Dr. Jonas (M. Wacks) 13/2/44
Salomon, Haym
—(J. Burman) 12/2/10
—(M. Wacks) 12/6/16
Salvador, Francis (H. Flower) 13/3/13
Samuel, Herbert (E. Semmelman) 14/4/6
Seixas, Gershom Mendes
—(M. Wacks) 8/4/18
—(M. Wacks) 12/6/17
Stern, Isaac (M. Wacks) 15/3/30
Szold, Henrietta
—(S. Haffner) 9/4/18
—(M. Wacks) 12/6/18
—(B. Hoenig) 13/3/28
Trumpeldor, Joseph (H. Flower) 12/2/34
Weizmann, Chaim
—(M. Gould) 8/3/14
—9/1/23, 10/6/18
—(S. Lachman) 11/3/38
Wieniawski, Henri
—(D. Paszamant) 15/2/7
—(H. Flower) 15/4/19
Zamenhof, Ludwik (D. Paszamant) 15/2/7

JUDAIC EXONUMIA

Counterstamps

AINA Salutes ANA at Boston 15/6/14
Camp David Counterstamped Peace Dollar - 1978 (M. Wacks) 11/6/24
Counterstamped Coins Used During Palestine Mandate Period (A. Kindler) 10/3/25
INS of Brooklyn Salutes AINA 13/4/29
"Palestine 1918" Hand Engraved Coin (S. Haffner) 11/6/83
Shaare Zedek Hospital Counterstamp —(S. Olson) 13/3/6, 15/6/33
—(M. Kay) 15/2/21
Thirteenth Birthday of AINA 13/4/29

Elongateds

Great Lakes Seminar - 1974 7/4/25
Greater Los Angeles Coin Convention - 1980 13/4/29
Story Behind the Chanukah Elongated (D. Dow) 1/4/30

Israel Government Coins & Medals Corp. New Years Greetings

1965 Miniature Medal of Liberation Set in Bookmarks 3/1/29
1969 And You Will Rejoice in Your Festivals 2/3/32
1973 Honors Navy 5/4/24
1974 —6/4/29
—(M. Morgenstern) 7/1/22
1975 "GREETINGS" Error (S. Haffner) 7/4/21
Five Dies Needed (M. Morgenstern) 8/4/6
1979 —12/1/14
General

Edge Variations of New Year Tokens (M. Morgenstern) 9/4/27
New Year Tokens vs. New Year Medals (M. Morgenstern) 12/5/6

Israel Numismatic Societies' Medals

AINA Clubs Create Numismatic Collectables 10/2/71
INS of Brooklyn First Anniversary Commemorative 7/1/32
INS of Brooklyn, Medallic History (E. Baruch) 13/4/43
INS of Illinois Issues Fifth Anniversary Medal 7/4/31
ICC of Los Angeles Tenth Anniversary Medal 9/3/32
INS of Long Island Chanukah Party Medal 10/1/28
INS of Massachusetts Offers Third Club Medal 9/3/29

Philatelic-Numismatic Covers

—(M. Gould) 3/4/13, 5/1/13
Israel - Country of the Year 1/4/6

ICCLA 11th Anniversary Banquet Mini-PNC 10/2/73

INS of New York and INS of Brooklyn Issue Chai - N.S. PNC 11/2/36

Tokens

Another Jewish Charity Token (Y. Meshorer) 9/1/32
Chanukah Gelt Token of 1949 (E. Semmelman) 8/4/27
Charity Tokens for Coffin Bearers - Jerusalem (D. Genachowski) 5/3/25
Charity Tokens of Aleppo (Y. Meshorer) 8/4/17
Fabulous Roger J. Merritt Judaica Token - 1979 (R. Merritt) 13/2/10
Good Ship Vulcan (D. Genachowski) 8/4/16
Jewish Old Age Homes - Canada (M. Kay) 15/1/6
Joel Swope's Store "Cards" (D. Schenkman/J. Levine) 13/4/16
"Kosher" Civil War Token (M. Gould) 8/4/14
Maier Kamilla's Substitute Shekel (E. Schuman) 11/5/6
"Mazel Tov" Mr. and Mrs. Aaron 2/4/22
My Grandfather's Shekel (B. Hoenig) 12/4/3
Polish Matzoh Money (U. Federbush) 12/6/8
Rabbi Solomon Kluger School's Chanukah Gelt Tokens (U. Federbush) 9/2/28
Shekel Ballot for Zionist Congress Election - 1960 (U. Federbush) 10/1/19
Shomer Hadas (B. Odesser) 11/3/39
Solomon King of the Jews 5/2/11
Some Jewish Community Tokens (R. Schonwalter) 9/6/23
Unknown Charity Scrip - Paris 1917 (F. Frank1) 10/1/30

Wooden Shekels

Hebrew Theological College Wooden Nickel (B. Odesser) 11/3/39
Magnes Museum
1968 Wooden Shekel (M. Wacks) 1/1/34
1969 Wooden Prutah (M. Wacks) 2/1/20
1970 Wooden Obol (M. Wacks) 3/4/12

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1880 - Jewish Coins of the Hasmoneans 3/1/27

JUDAIC NUMISMATICS

Africa

Egypt

Jewish Fantasy Medals from Egypt (D. Genachowski) 6/2/27

Magen David on Egyptian Piaster of Sultan Selim III - 1807 (S. Lachman) 13/2/45

Peace Treaty Coins of Egypt

—(E. Baruch) 13/6/10

—(D. Paszamant) 15/3/12

Sadat Honored on Proof Gold Coin (S. Eyer) 14/5/31

“Victory” Anniversary Medal - 1980 (E. Baruch) 14/6/29

Yom Kippur War Commemorative (D. Paszamant) 15/3/12

Falashas (Ethiopia)

Jewish Minters and Engravers (D. Friedenberg) 3/4/19, 13/2/30

Mauritius

Maier Kamilla’s Substitute Shekels

—(E. Schuman) 11/5/6

—(J. Schwartz) 11/6/4

Morocco

Six Pointed Star on Moroccan Coin (E. Janis) 5/2/18

Tangier Gold Hercules (H. Flower) 9/6/22

Asia

China

Check of Jewish National Bank of Harbin (S. Matalon) 12/1/20

Iran

Coin Issued by Jews of Iran on Occasion of Rosh Hashonah - 1965 (E. Janis) 3/4/19

Jewish Community Medal (E. Schuman) 12/2/31

Magen David on Iranian Currency (H. Kwart) 12/2/33

Khazars

Jewish Minters and Engravers (D. Friedenberg) 3/4/19, 13/2/30

Caribbean

Curacao

Maduro Family and Their Tokens (R. Leonard) 5/4/23

Oldest Synagogue in Western Hemisphere Honored on Commemorative Coin (H. Flower) 15/6/26

Dominica

Independence Coins Commemorate Mideast Peace (H. Flower) 15/4/17

Haiti

1977 Coin Honors Begin and Sadat 11/5/20

Jamaica

Christopher Columbus on Commemorative Coin (D. Paszamant) 15/3/11

Europe

Austria

Edict of Toleration - 1782

—(M. Gould) 4/1/13

—(M. Doron) 10/2/64

Joseph Popper Lynkens Medal (E. Semmelman) 7/4/18

Max Reinhardt, Director, Medal

—(E. Semmelman) 13/5/15

—(D. Paszamant) 15/2/7

Otto Bauer Commemorative Coin - 1981 (H. Flower) 15/4/16

Belgium

Yitzhak Ben-Zvi Visit to Belgium Medal (D. Genachowski) 4/2/9

Czechoslovakia

Viktor Kaplan Commemorative (D. Paszamant) 15/3/11

Denmark

Denmark and the Jews (S. Olson)

14/1/15

Jehovah Coins (P. Zerman) 13/3/32

East Germany

Marx, Heine, Luxembourg, Einstein, Lessing Commemorative Coins (D. Paszamant) 15/2/7

Heinrich Hertz Commemorative Coin - 1969 (H. Flower) 15/4/19

England

British Medallist Commemorates Defeat of Napoleon at Acre (Akko) - 1799 (S. Lachman) 8/3/25

British Service Medals (E. Semmelman) 4/3/12

English Zionist Federation Medal - 1902 (E. Semmelman) 10/6/14

Expulsion and Resettlement of the Jews in Great Britain - 300th Anniversary Medal by Vincze (S. Needleman) 14/3/30

Joseph Zvi Hertz, Chief Rabbi Nineteenth Century Medal (E. Semmelman) 11/1/23

Lady Watson’s Medal Issued by the Order of St. John of Israel (D. Genachowski) 13/4/41

Mendoza, Daniel - First Jewish Heavyweight Champion (E. Baruch) 15/6/4

Nurse Passy, Nineteenth Century Medal (E. Semmelman) 12/1/32

Private Borlont British Service Medal (D. Genachowski) 4/3/12

Samuel Montagu & Co. Silver Ingot - 1949 (H. Flower) 13/5/20

Wallich, Dr. Nathaniel Medallic Tribute (Dr. M. Kay) 14/2/36

France

Cremieux, Adolphe, Nineteenth Century Medal (E. Semmelman) 13/1/26
Halevy, Daniel - Historian, Medal Issued by Paris Mint (E. Semmelman) 15/2/6
Maurois, Andre - Biographer, Medal Issued by Paris Mint (E. Semmelman) 14/2/38

Germany

Cologne Synagogue Medal by J. Weiner (A. Schmeidler) 7/4/17
David Ben-Gurion Medal Struck by Bavarian State Mint (D. Genachowski) 7/1/17
Diez Orphanage - 1892 (E. Semmelman) 10/6/14
Early Biblical Medals (M. Wacks) 9/2/22
Ehrlich, Paul, Nineteenth Century Medal (E. Semmelman) 11/2/16
Frankl, Wilhelm - The Jew With the Blue Max (H. Nowarra) 15/4/3
Jewish Community of Frankfurt A. M. Medal (E. Semmelman) 11/5/21
Kaiser Wilhelm II Trip to Jerusalem Medal (M. Wacks) 3/4/11
Kosher Dishes Win Two Gold Medals at Culinary Olympics (Y. Oked) 14/2/39
New Synagogue of Munich Medal - 1826 (E. Semmelman) 11/3/13
Society of young Israelite Friends of the Poor-Distribution Token (H. Flower) 7/4/14
Unusual Personal Medal Without Portrait - Cologne (G. Kisch) 11/5/10

Holland

Enigma of the Medal of Rabbi Elazar Rokach (E. Semmelman) 6/3/24
Herzl Gold Medals - 1968 (E. Janis) 9/2/15
History of the Jews in Holland as Illustrated by Medals (Dr. A. Polak) 12/4/45
Jewish Medals in the Netherlands (M. Van der Voort) 1/3/8
King of Israel Medals (H. Flower) 10/6/13
Zionist Medal Produced by Royal Dutch Gold and Silver Works (E. Janis) 4/2/17

Italy

Albert Cohen Medal (E. Semmelman) 10/1/21
Israel Stamps Awarded Medal (S. Shalit) 5/1/23
"La Spezia" Medal (S. Nahon) 5/1/16

Poland

"Judea Capta" Type of 1583 (M. Wacks) 4/3/18
Korczak, Zamenhof, Wieniawski Commemorative Coins (D. Paszamant) 15/2/7
Wieniawski Commemorative - 1979 (H. Flower) 15/4/19

Russia

Ilya Ehrenbourg, Writer, Medal Issued by Paris Mint (E. Semmelman) 14/1/14
Keren Kayemeth Medal (H. Abramowitz) 12/4/39
Mendel Beiliss Medal
—(S. Haffner) 4/1/4
—(A. Lerner) 4/4/20
Rishon Letzion Medal (A. Priel) 5/4/18

Spain

Was Spanish General Ambrose Spinola a 17th Century Crypto-Jew? 4/2/24

General

Columbus Medal 12/4/10
Introduction to Jewish Medals (H. Feuchtwanger) 12/5/23
Jewish Minters and Engravers in World Currency - Spain, France, Hungary, Poland, etc. (D. Friedenberg) 3/4/21, 4/1/19, 13/2/32
Jews and the Art of the Medal (D. Friedenberg) 12/6/30, 13/1/31
Nineteenth Century Medals
Benjamin Disraeli, Prof. Theodor Gomperz Gustav Hollaender (E. Semmelman) 10/3/21
Rabbi Henri Loeb, Itzchak Levitan, "Chacham" Isaac Bernays (E. Semmelman) 10/4/8
Rabbi Yitzak Spector Medal (H. Abramowitz) 12/4/39

Latin America

Mexico
Herzl Centenary Medal (E. Janis) 3/3/23
Israel Coin Exhibition in Mexico Medal (E. Baruch) 14/1/28
Mexican Jewry's Proud Heritage (E. Baruch) 15/3/20

Paraguay

Einstein Commemorative Coin - 1974 (H. Flower) 15/4/18

Tierra del Fuego (Argentina)

Julius Popper's Private Gold Coinage (D. Friedenberg) 3/4/20
(R. Grad) 9/4/10
(H. Flower) 9/6/22

United States

Organizations

American Hebrew Medal, 1933 (M. Greengold) 11/5/16

American-Israel Pavilion Medals and Tokens, 1964-1965 (E. Weitz) 5/4/20

American-Jewish Relief Committee Medal Given Only to Non-Jews (U. Federbush) 10/2/82

American Jewish War Veterans - A Medallistic History (U. Federbush) 14/3/8

American Red Magen David - David Berger Medal (H. Flower) 12/4/35

Avat Sholom Congregation of the Bronx Medal, 1928 (E. Janis) 4/4/26

B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League - Lyndon Johnson Dinner Medal, 1965 (H. Flower) 12/4/36

B'nai Zion-Fred-Kahan Award (M. Wacks) 14/5/35

B'nee Salem Society Medal - 1919 (U. Federbush) 12/2/29

Community Synagogue of Rye - 25th Anniversary Medal (H. Flower) 12/4/36

Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charleston - Francis Salvador Medal (H. Flower) 13/3/13

Israel Bonds - Harry S. Truman, Man of the Century, Medal (E. Baruch) 14/2/31

Jewish-American Hall of Fame

Medals (Magnes Museum)

1969 Judah Magnes (M. Wacks) 12/6/12

1970 Albert Einstein (M. Wacks) 12/6/13

1971 Louis Brandeis (M. Wacks) 12/6/14

1972 George Gershwin (M. Wacks) 12/6/15

1973 Haym Salomon —(J. Burman) 12/2/10
—(M. Wacks) 12/6/16

1974 Herbert H. Lehman (M. Wacks) 12/6/17

1975 Gershom Mendes Seixas Birth of a Judaic Medal (M. Wacks) 8/4/18
—(M. Wacks) 12/6/17

1976 Henrietta Szold (M. Wacks) 12/6/18

1977 Touro Synagogue (M. Wacks) 6/3/14, 12/6/19

1978 Golda Meir (M. Wacks) 12/6/20

1980 Jonas Salk (M. Wacks) 13/2/44

1981 Rebecca Gratz (M. Wacks) 14/2/14

1982 Isaac Stern (M. Wacks) 15/3/30

Jewish National Fund

—43 Medals Honor JFK Memorial Inauguration (R. Messing) 8/3/13

Judaic Heritage Society - Mill Street Synagogue Medal (F. Bertram) 14/1/39

National Jewish-American Medals

First - 250th Anniversary (U. Federbush) 9/6/3

Second - 300th Anniversary (U. Federbush) 11/4/26

New York Numismatic Club - Ed Janis Medal 10/5/13

Shaarey Zedek Congregation of Detroit Medal (R. Grad) 9/2/14

Shearith Israel Congregation of New York Issues Medal to Celebrate 85th Birthday of Rev. Dr. David De Sola Pool 3/4/8, 4/1/26

United Jewish Appeal

Medals of Keren Hayesod (S. Matalon) 8/4/22

Twentieth Anniversary Medal Honors Three Generals (R. Messing) 7/2/16

U.S. Government

Henry Morgenthau Sr. (R. Grad) 9/3/20

The Morgenthau (E. Schuman) 11/4/37

Simon Wiesenthal Honored with Gold Medal 13/5/10

Medalists/Artists

Brenner, Victor David V.D.B. (I. Stoff) 2/4/17

America's Greatest Numismatic Sculptor (D. Johnson) 4/2/2

Jews and the Art of the Medal (D. Friedenberg) 13/1/34

Carvalho, Solomon Nunes - His Numismatic Art

Circulated Among Millions of Americans Over 100 Year Ago (G. Gilbert) 15/3/3

Furst, Moritz

Jews and the Art of the Medal (D. Friedenberg) 13/1/34

Hunt, Dora de Pedery of Canada (M. Wacks) 8/1/16

Wiener, Gerta Ries - Jewish-American Hall of Fame Medals (M. Wacks) 8/4/18, 12/6/14

General

Arthur Fiedler Medal (H. Flower) 6/2/17

Commodore Uriah P. Levy (J. Turoff) 13/5/12

Harry Houdini - Man and Myth (E. Baruch) 14/4/21

Jewish American Colonial Paper Money (J. Burman) 11/2/12
 Jewish Magicians Tokens (E. Schuman) 11/6/22
 Judah P. Benjamin
 Confederate States of America Currency (H. Flower) 3/3/12
 Confederate Statesman (R. Grad) 9/1/17
 (See also *Judaic Scripophily*)
 Mark Pennies of Free Masonry (M. Wacks) 6/2/24
 Masada Medal Issued to Promote Evangelism (D. Hedin) 10/1/14
 Medallic Portraits of Einstein (M. Wacks) 4/1/16

JUDAIC SCRIPOPHILY

Chabadniks' 1-Lira Scrip (I. Herzig) 3/4/7
 Currency Notes of Russian Jewish Communities (D. Atsmony) 8/3/28
 Debt Certificate of the Big Synagogue (S. Matalon) 10/6/5
 Jewish Colonial Trust (F. Frankl) 12/2/17
 Judah P. Benjamin on Confederate Currency (D. Paszamant) 15/3/13
 Judaic Cheques (S. Matalon) 12/1/20
 Learning History from a *Halukkah* Voucher, 1898 (S. Yulish) 13/1/6
 My Great-Grandfather's Checks (S. Aronin) 13/4/18
 Rare Judaic Lotteries (S. Matalon) 15/1/14
 Solomon Nunes Carvalho's Art Depicted on U.S. Banknotes (G. Gilbert) 15/3/3
 Trade Bank of Lodz and Merchants' 50 Kopeck Bank Note (E. Schuman) 13/4/6
 Ukrainian 100 Karbowanetz Note of 1917 (I. Herzig) 3/3/25
 United Nations Gaza Scrip (E. Schuman) 13/1/30
 Unknown Token of World War II with Magen David (S. Matalon) 15/2/35
 50 Kopeck Lottery Ticket in Yiddish (D. Genachowski) 5/1/9

PALESTINE NUMISMATICS

Arabs

Arab-Byzantine Coinage in Eretz Yisrael (E. Janis) 11/2/34, 11/3/31
 Mints of Palestine Under Islamic Rule (S. Lachman) 14/5/32, 15/1/8
 Post-Reform Arab Coinage in Eretz Yisrael (E. Janis) 11/4/14

Crusaders

Bezants of 1251 AD (R. Schonwalter) 4/1/10

Ottomans

Beshlik Coins (S. Lachman) 13/4/9
 Coins Used in Jerusalem About 1650 (S. Lachman) 11/1/22
 Currency Riots of 1880 in Jerusalem (D. Genachowski) 13/3/8
 Djezzar Mosque at Acre Medal (S. Lachman) 12/2/42
 Five Livres Turques Banque Imperiale Ottoman (S. Lachman) 7/4/15
 Imperial Ottoman Navy - Palestine Loans (F. Frankl) 12/3/7
 Ottoman Empire: Jewish Community Tokens (K. MacKenzie) 13/3/3
 Ottoman Medals Issued in Connection with Palestine - Acre and Hejaz Railway (S. Lachman) 13/1/23
 Ottoman Paper Money of World War I (S. Lachman) 11/5/26
 Overprinted Ottoman 5-Piastre Note Dates to British Base for Jewish Legion (S. Halperin) 8/2/24
 Petach Tiqva Token (S. Matalon) 11/6/35
 "Registered Cheques" Issued by the Anglo-Palestine Company - 1914 (S. Haffner) 15/3/18
 Story Behind "Registered Checks" (M. Hacohen) 15/6/8
 Tokens of the Templers
 —(Y. Meshorer) 3/3/4
 —(S. Olson) 11/2/3
 Turkish Banknotes Used in Palestine (S. Haffner) 5/1/25
 Use of Foreign Coins in Palestine Before World War I (S. Lachman) 12/6/25
 Watermarks of the Ottoman Paper Money (S. Lachman) 7/1/8

British Mandate

Coins
 Collecting Palestine Coins (M. Gould) 2/4/13, 8/4/14
 Counterstamped Coins Used During Palestine Mandate Period (A. Kindler) 10/3/25
 Egyptian Coinage Used in Palestine 1917-1927 (S. Lachman) 11/6/12, 12/1/24, 12/2/24, 12/3/27
 Foreign Legal Tender Coinage Circulating in Palestine (S. Lachman) 13/3/36, 13/4/22
 Mutilated Mandate 20 Mil Coins (E. Schuman) 11/6/10
 Trend in Palestine Mandate Coins, 1927-1947 (S. Haffner) 1/4/13
 Why Were the Palestine Mandate 5, 10 and 20 Mils Coins Issued with Center Holes? (E. Janis) 3/2/23, 13/4/30
 1925 Meeting of Committee on Names for Proposed Palestine Coinage (D. Genachowski) 7/2/12

Medals

Arlosoroff, Chaim Remembered in Numismatic Art (M. Doron) 8/3/30
British Campaign Medals Issued in Connection with Palestine (S. Lachman) 12/6/28
Forerunners of Israel State Medals (D. Genachowski) 2/4/4
French Medal Honors Palestine, International Colonial Exhibition, Paris, 1931 9/2/21
Keren Hayesod 1937 Calendar Medal (S. Haffner) 4/2/23
Ruthenberg, Pinchass - Naharayim Dam Medal (E. Semmelman) 15/4/25
Samuel, Sir Herbert Medal Honors High Commissioner of Palestine (E. Semmelman) 14/4/6
Tel Aviv Horse Race of 1931 (S. Matalon) 6/2/26

Paper Money

100 Pound Notes
New Information (J. Fisher) 7/2/7
Note of Gold (H. Bar-Hai) 11/1/15
Palestine Currency Board (J. Fisher) 4/3/2
Bought by U.S. Collector (H. Bar-Hai) 5/3/23
50 Pound Notes
Palestine Currency Board (J. Fisher) 4/2/10
10 Pound Notes
Palestine Currency Board (J. Fisher) 5/4/9
5 Pound Notes
Palestine Currency Board (J. Fisher) 6/3/2
1 Pound Notes
Palestine Currency Board (J. Fisher) 7/1/13
500 Mil Notes
Palestine Currency Board (J. Fisher) 8/4/10
General

Anglo-Palestine Bank Notes - New Information (S. Lachman) 8/3/20
Bi-Lingual British Occupation Overprint Notes (H. Kwart) 9/5/15
British Paper Money Legal Tender in Palestine 1918-1928 (S. Lachman) 13/4/22
Check List of Banks in Palestine Under the British Mandate (D. Genachowski) 13/2/3
Egyptian Paper Money Used in Palestine (S. Lachman) 11/2/6, 11/3/6, 11/4/9, 12/4/33
First Necessity Currency - Palestine, 1914 (F. Frank) 11/1/26
Hoofien's "Illegal" Legal Tender - 1948 (F. Frankl) 11/2/24, 11/3/28

In the Pursuit of Palestine Rarities (S. Olson) 11/1/12
More Information on Palestine Notes (J. Fisher) 7/3/26
New Currency Issue - 1927 (J. Fisher) 8/1/18
Profile of a Signature - Avraham Etkind (F. Frankl) 11/4/39
Trends in Paper Money, 1927-1947 (S. Haffner) 1/3/12

Scripophily

Anglo-Palestine Deposit Certificate (E. Schuman) 10/6/9
Bearer Bonds - 1945 10/6/8
Halukkah - Contributions to Eretz Israel (S. Olson) 12/4/6
Halukkah Money of the Kolelim (E. Schuman) 11/1/8
Jewish Colonial Trust Shares (J. Fisher) 5/2/8
Judaic Fiscal History in Scripophily - Jewish Colonial Trust, etc. (S. Olson) 14/4/8
Kibbutz Scrip (M. Gould) 4/2/18
Kolelim Cheque (S. Matalon) 12/3/10
Money of the Religious Institutions 1918-1948 (F. Frankl) 12/4/30
Palestine Lottery Tickets (F. Frankl) 10/4/22
Palestine War Loan (F. Frankl) 14/1/19
Receipt for Palestine (E. Mendelssohn) 9/5/28, 10/1/24
Soldier-Created Label "Monies" Passed as Currency in Palestine 1946-1948 3/3/22
Wallach, Dr. Moshe
Holy Land Letters (S. Yulish) 14/4/5
Letter from Rabbi Medini (S. Yulish) 15/4/24
Matzoh Money
—(D. Genachowski) 3/3/6
—(H. MacInnis) 14/2/19

Tokens

Brief History of Tokens of Palestine and Israel (E. Schuman) 8/3/16
Cooperatives in Eretz Israel (S. Olson) 11/4/4
First Moshav Tokens: Nahalal (S. Halperin) 8/1/17
Guardians of the City - Mea Shearim District (D. Genachowski) 2/3/7
Holyland Token 1/2/36
Jewish National Committee Palestine Tokens 1919-1924 (M. Lew-Ran) 13/4/40
Kofer Hayishuv Tokens (S. Olson) 10/6/10
Low Cost Butter Token, 1920's (M. Lew-Ran) 13/1/3

Merchant Tokens of Palestine (S. Olson) 11/5/22
Mikveh Israel Token - Once in a Lifetime Find (E. Semmelman) 14/4/46
Milk and Egg Tokens of Gvat Kibbutz (M. Lew-Ran) 12/2/8
Mishmar Hamifratz Transportation Co. Small Change Tokens (S. Haffner) 6/3/18
Unique Potato Token (S. Matalon) 5/3/22
United Jewish Drivers Token (D. Genachowski) 4/2/9
Women's Tokens of Eretz Israel (S. Matalon) 15/3/16
Yeshivat Hebron Tokens —(D. Genachowski) 3/1/18 —(S. Halperin) 3/4/10

GENERAL TOPICS AND FEATURES

Ancient Money Changers (J. Newman) 2/1/11
Bullion Value of Israel's Coins and Medals (C. and A. Rosenblum) 12/6/21
California Muscle, New York Counsel Avert Bank Panic in 1869 (A. Persigny) 15/3/23
Collecting Guidelines
Collecting the Coins of Modern Israel (E. Janis) 10/2/57
Definitions for the Beginner (E. Janis) 10/6/20
Definitions of Medals, Tokens and Coins 1/3/7
Determining the Numismatic Value Quotient of Coins (R. Grad) 7/1/20
Differences Between Coins and Medals (E. Janis) 10/5/20
Evolution of a Numisnut (M. Vlotoffsky) 14/1/26
Growth of Israel Coin Collectors (Y. Avni) 7/1/12
How they Became Coin Collectors (M. Morgenstern) 10/5/28
Medal Mania (M. Wacks) 4/4/13
Simplified Methodology for Grading and Evaluating Paper Money (H. Kwart) 7/4/12
Specializing . . . or Collecting What You Like (A. Weinberg) 9/6/24
Common Sense Investment in Israel's Coins and Medals (J. Morgenstern) 14/4/19
Comparing Israel Coin - Stamp Themes (A. and A. Greenberg) 7/4/9
Conversion of "Pounds" to "Shekels"
Bank of Israel's "Shekel" (N. Sobel) 1/4/15
Debut of the Sheqel - Banks Report Easy Transition (N. Sobel) 13/6/36
Israel Revamps Currency - Returns to Shekel 13/3/16

Israeli Currency Reform Confuses Population (P. Wolffers) 13/4/15
Operation Menorah - Inside Story (R. Aaron/Y. Gariepy) 14/5/4
"Shekel" vs. "Sheqel" 13/5/16
Transition to the Sheqel Strictly Psychological (S. Krupnick) 13/6/16
Errors in 1948 Coin - Stamps (Y. Meshorer) 9/2/31
Freemasonry in the Holy Land (J. Burman) 11/1/6
Guide to Israel's Coin Dates, 1948-1961 (N. Sobel) 1/3/33
Hanukka Lamps - from Frederick's Battlefield (M. Ronnen) 13/2/46
Holy Days and Holidays (N. Sobel) 13/5/28
Israel Numismatic Crossword Puzzle (M. Wacks) 2/4/24
Israel Numismatic Society
—(A. Kindler) 6/1/4
—(A. Kindler) 10/4/3
—(M. Gould) 8/1/13
Israel Numismatics and the "Japanese Connection" (J. Eidelberg) 14/1/12
Israel to Strike its Own Coinage 9/2/32
Israel's Commemorative Errors (B. Hoenig) 12/5/7
Israel's Museums
An American Collector Visits the Israel Museum (M. Zerder) 9/3/31
France Holds Suspect in Israel Museum Theft (D. Richardson) 11/5/36
Israel's Museums as Seen by a Syngraphist (F. Frankl) 10/3/23
Kadman's Contributions Honored 9/1/16
Kadman Numismatic Museum
—(W. Thompson) 3/3/2
Shows Kaplan Coins 4/4/14
Looted 10/4/14, 10/5/10
Maritime Museum
—10/2/29
—(R. Elston) 4/4/2
Curator Ben-Eli Dies 13/4/8
Meshorer Called as Expert Witness in Archaeological Theft 10/4/29
Jewish National Fund Medals
—By Ruchomowski (S. Matalon) 5/3/31
—Presented in 1921 (S. Lachman) 9/5/32
Ketubot and Numismatics (E. Schuman) 12/1/22
Krause Publications Celebrates 30th Anniversary (P. Black) 15/6/31
Medical Coins and Medals of Jewish Interest
Maimonides, Shaprut, Ehrlich (Dr. M. Kay) 15/1/3
Wallach, Henschel, Landsteiner, Szold, Freud (Dr. M. Kay) 15/2/16
Meiyir Rosenberger, City Coin Specialist Dies 15/6/30
Moscow Olympics . . . All that Glitters Isn't (C. and A. Rosenblum) 12/6/21

New Easy Ways of Coin Photography (G. Gilbert) 3/1/30, 3/2/18, 4/4/16
Philadelphia Museum of Judaica Holds First Numismatic Exhibit 15/1/17
Reflections on America's Bicentennial as Israel Celebrates Her 28th Anniversary (S. Haffner) 9/1/3
Rehovot (E. Schuman) 11/2/30
Scarcities and Sleepers in Israeli Coins (S. Haffner) 1/2/9
Shalom in Silver (B. Hoenig) 12/3/4
Shaare Zedek Hospital (S. Zabel) 11/1/16
Son of Yitzhak Avni Killed in Lebanon Battle 15/4/28

Soviet Coin Collectors Harassed by Police 4/2/19
Story of Minting (S. Lechner) 1/3/18
"Thou Shalt Not Make Unto Thee Any Graven Image" (E. Janis) 11/1/18
Unexpected Finds (A. Schmeidler) 7/3/18
U.S. Court Holds Gift of Coins to Israel Valid (A. Foxman) 4/2/21
Was Platinum Ever Used in the Minting of Coins? (E. Janis) 10/4/24
Which are the Largest and Smallest Coins Minted in Ancient Eretz Israel? (D. Genachowski) 6/3/17
Yitzhak Avni - in Remembrance (E. Schuman) 12/5/3



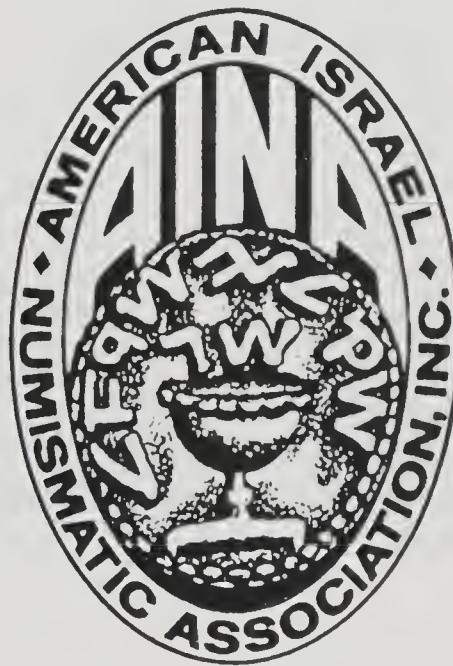
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

In the summer of 1967, a small, wiry and aggressive Israeli, Joseph Milo, sent to the United States to further the sales of Israel's coins and medals through an ambitious plan to reach Americans through coin dealers and even sponsoring banks in many communities, met with an American collector of Israel's coinage and medals. He was Morris Bram, a recently retired businessman seeking ways to interest others in the historic importance of Israel's numismatic efforts.

The concept of a national organization, with a network of clubs and with thousands affiliated members-at-large, with programs of education and related numismatic activities was conceived by the two at a meeting held in the midtown New York City Hotel Roosevelt. It was thought that the organization would be international in scope, with collectors in Canada and Israel, possibly even other countries.

The name: AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION was suggested by Bram and an attorney was engaged to protect the name and to pursue incorporation. A sponsoring Board of Directors, Friends of Israel Numismatics was formed by Bram calling New York area individuals who he thought to be sympathetic to the idea: Maurice Frankenhuys (now deceased); Nathan Goldman (now deceased); Michael Granis (now deceased); Edward Janis; Julius Schatz, Edward Schuman, Louis Schweiloch, Nat Sobel, Julius Turoff and Max Vlotkoffsky.

Following the appointment of this Board by Mr. Bram, an organizational meeting was held with Yitzhak Avni, the very enthused Director of



AINA logo designed by Nat Sobel, an active early member who is a vital force today.

the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation from Jerusalem, who saw the many advantages to both Israel and America in the newly born numismatic child. He suggested the need for a Constitution and together with Bram they visited the new members of the Board to suggest a first dramatic action: The honoring of the arrival in the United States of Levi Eshkol on a formal presidential visit to Washington, D.C. by a committee of Israelis and Americans. This committee met and agreed to strike the medal (which AINA now proudly shows as the first AINA medal).

The first business meeting of AINA actually took place on April 28, 1968 at the Sheraton-Atlantic Hotel in New York City.

The organization meeting began with an announced membership of over 1,000 — with the distinction of the Membership No. 1000 going to Margo Russell, (now Editor of the Coin World).

Max Vlotkoffsky was the first Secretary of A.I.N.A. and also Secretary of the I.N.S. of N.Y. in 1968.



Morris Bram

Morris Bram of the Israel Numismatic Society of New York urged as early as January of 1968 that this New York group affiliate with the budding AINA. The group voted unanimously to do so in January of 1968, prior to the formative April meeting that year. Similar votes were taken in Los Angeles, Cleveland and Miami and all voted to affiliate. The start of the national network of clubs had begun even as the organization was taking shape.

The Shekel is created

It was obvious that the new members would need to know more about the organization and about Israel's numismatics, then only occasionally covered by the existing coin press. It was clear that a magazine would be needed, a scholarly journal to tell the collectors and the members all about the world of Israel numismatics and to report on the progress of AINA's growth, the plan to set up clubs in numerous cities, etc. The Shekel was suggested as a name for the new journal by the man who was to pioneer its development as the first editor: Nat Sobel, already very active in the Association.

An actual shekel which has since appeared on every cover of the newly born magazine was from the actual collection of new Board member Michael Granis.

Sylvia Haffner was early a welcomed addition to the Board of Directors. She was one of the first contributors to *The Shekel*.

Her research in the coins and currency of Israel led to the publication of her book. *The History of Modern Israel's Money* (1967) and the updated edition *Israel's Money and Medals* (1976) published by Arnold H. Kagan.

The Existing Israel Coin Clubs

Collecting the coins of Israel was by that time not a new idea in the U.S. The State of Israel had been founded in 1948 and long before that in history there had been active collectors of numismatics relating to the history of the Jewish people. Collectors of such material in a number of cities had already formed Israel Coin Clubs. The first of these was the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles.

The I.N.S. of Cleveland was one of the first of the "new" I.N.S. clubs. Robert Greene was its first President. This club pioneered development of the AINA Slide Programs.

At the start, there was no office, no staff, no dependable source of income. What income did arrive from memberships could barely sustain the printing and mailing bills for the emerging national magazine. The concept of a financially successful convention or sales of numismatic educational materials to raise funds for the unborn educational programs was yet to develop.

The first step towards making the organization financially stable was to make it the centre for some of the purchases by its far-flung members, many of whom needed a dependable

source of the newly minted coins and medals of Israel, most unavailable in the local communities.

If the members had to buy by mail, why not from AINA?

In April 1969, AINA became the North American official distributor of Israel's coins and medals for the members and clubs as well as the sole distributor of certain special medals.

A further step to weld the organization together and to possibly raise needed funds to conduct AINA activities was the brainchild of Joseph Milo and Morris Bram: the AINA Study Tours of Israel. The first tour attracted a small handful of participants; by 1973, 118 AINA members and their family and friends were aboard the El Al flight to Israel to what has become the annual March trek to the Holy Land.

AINA has now conducted 15 such ventures and over 1000 Americans have seen Israel through the assistance of the special tours conducted for this vital group.

No other numismatic organization in the world has been able to generate the interest which could bring members from all across the country to one airport for a 12-hour trip to another part of the world!

A First Coin Convention

The growing organization sought ways to bring together the numerous leaders from across America and the answer was a coin convention where Israeli collectors could hear learn — see — exhibit — socialize — entertain — visit and share.

The first AINA Coin Convention was held in April of 1973. It had taken five years and the formation of clubs in nearly 20 states to assure an organization of a size which could sustain the effort of a national coin convention.

Bram's experience as a convention chairman had been earned in years of numismatic activity with his

much-loved Long Island Coin Club and other groups with which he had been affiliated. Top dealers from Europe and across the U.S. were invited by Bram to take tables at the Bourse and from the first convention (1973) and ever since, the Bourse has been a sell-out.

The banquets have been a sell-out. The exhibit areas have been totally filled and the AINA members have had voices in workshops and seminars where club activities and policy planning could be aired.

By 1973, AINA's membership had passed 3500 and the group was the third largest numismatic organization in the U.S.

By inviting the public to the Convention where all manner of coins were on display and sold in the bourse, over 5000 attendees were registered. By 1974's convention, the annual event attracted over 8,000 and the events since have been at that figure, helped by a vast public relations effort in the cooperative *Coin World*, *Numismatic News Weekly*, *World Coins*, *The New York Times* and other media. Today AINA has two NY area conventions and a Florida convention each year.

Local Expos and Seminars

The local INS clubs and other groups sought ways to interest the members of their communities in Israel's numismatics, etc., and the INS clubs have either formed or participated in Holy Land Expos or Holy Land Seminars at varying times of the year in numerous areas. Four California clubs conduct Holy Land Expos; the Great Lakes Seminar has involved activities of many of the AINA members in the Cleveland area. The Houston AINA members have established coin displays at the state fairs and community projects. The Baltimore INS has participated in Community Center projects and this effort has repeated in numerous cities for clubs and AINA members

who cannot attend the annual national convention.

More AINA Numismatics

In 1973 AINA added to the numismatic world with introduction of the annual AINA token, a token available only to members, struck in Israel and delivered after January 1 to all re-registering members. The membership token obverse was designed by the second (and present) editor of *The Shekel* George Gilbert; the reverse is the reverse of the IGCAM New Year's Token sent to all subscribers to the IGCAM mailing program.

For the Bicentennial Year of 1976, AINA's treasurer, Edward Janis, a member of the founding Board of Directors and long a stalwart in AINA activities designed the AINA Bicentennial Medal, basing it on the wellknown Houdon bust. Citing the famed George Washington Letter to the Jews of America which spoke out against bigotry, the medal was produced in time for the AINA Convention of 1976. It was minted in gold, silver and bronze and, for AINA members, in sets of silver and bronze.

AINA's Education Efforts

From the outset, as stated in its chapter in the incorporation in the State of New York, AINA is a non-profit educational organization. Its thrust has been to create a climate

where Israel's coinage and medals would serve as "metallic ambassadors of goodwill." The messengers bringing these ambassadors have been AINA's national officers, then the clubs to their own members friends, and then, and in the major activity, to and through the members-at-large who are the main body of AINA.

But this was not enough. AINA paid to send speakers out across America to assist clubs with programs or to strengthen the potential of formation of AINA clubs. AINA brought from Israel noted scholars like Yaakov Meshorer, Curator of Numismatics at the Israel Museum and arranged for the loan of films from various Israel sources to the local groups.

Finally, AINA developed from within the clubs a system for organization of the best lectures and educational programs into taped slide lectures.

The First Real Offices

By 1975, the growth of the organization had made it impossible for the 1967 "temporary" office. This had been set up in the home of Morris Bram. It had overflowed to all rooms of the apartment where Morris and his wife Lena, (who had become office manager-bookkeeper-secretary-shipping department for the entire operation) also lived.



1982 AINA Membership Medal to All Members





A RECENT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND GUESTS

Seated, left to right: Stanley Yulish, Ohio; Morris Bram, Florida; Sidney L. Olson, Florida; Julius Turoff, New York; Fred Roganson, Conn. and Irving L. Rudin, Mass.; Standing, left to right: Moe Weinschel; Alan Weinberg, New York; Harry Flower, Illinois; David Paszamant, New Jersey; Donna Sims, California; J. J. Van Grover, New York; Nat Sobel, New York; George Gilbert (guest); and Ed Janis, New York.

AINA opened offices in a modern building out of the din of Manhattan and it moved in recent years to Tamarac, Florida. Today a staff of three, augmented as necessary during peak periods handles the thousands of pieces of mail which arrive each month. A computer handles the addressing of labels for all direct mail program and for shipment of *The Shekel*. The publication in 1976 was shifted from four times a year to six times a year to keep pace with the growth of the organization.

Club Growth within Communities

1976 had further growth surprises with the addition of the INS of Alaska into the family of INS and related clubs. A.I.N.A. was fast approaching 50 groups, a number of which were in clusters in the great American metropolitan areas:

New York City was now serving its members with the original INS of New York; and in addition, there has been formed during these first years the INS of Long Island, the INS of Brooklyn, the INS of Queens and even the suburbs north were to provide the base for the INS of Westchester (WINS).

Nearby New Jersey, which had early in growth of AINA registered the INS of New Jersey, added an INS of South New Jersey and and I.N.S. of Northern New Jersey.

Among some of the very first to join AINA back in the late 1960s were coin collectors in Alaska. One of the special joys of 1976 was the announcement of the formation of the INS of Alaska, a story told in some detail in *The Shekel* a few issues later.

AINA Plants a Forest

In 1974, the organization took a step ahead of any numismatic organization in the world by committing itself to a project conceived and developed within an outstanding Israel Numismatic Society.

The group was the INS of Massachusetts and it was Ed Shade who pioneered, first within his club and then to AINA's Board of Directors a dream which has won wide acceptance among AINA members: To create an AINA Forest in Israel.

Working with the Jewish National Fund, a site was selected on the barren slopes outside of Jerusalem be-

low the John F. Kennedy Memorial. On the AINA tour of March 1975, the AINA Grove was started with plantings by all tour members and friends.

A year of work by the clubs had provided for 800 trees in the initial planting. A gift by A. H. Kagan of \$2500.00 was made to match the first \$2500.00 (approximately 800 trees) to immediately double the planting. Mr. Kagan announced the surprise gift "in honor of his friends Morris Bram and Yitzhak Avni". By the end of the first year, over 2000 trees had been planted.

Additions to the Grove during subsequent visits have more than doubled the original target for the first years of the AINA Grove.

The Help of Friends

The growth of the entire organization would not have been possible without the endless assistance and cooperation of varied offices of the Government of Israel and especially of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation. Following the return to Israel of Joseph Milo, there have been three further Directors for North America who have proven their dedication to the AINA idea: Ephraim Levy, now in Israel as an

officer of a leading petroleum company; Rafael Aldor, now a publishing house executive in Israel and today's Nahum H. Hacohen, wellknown to most clubs.

"Morris, the Miracle Man"

When the first AINA Convention was held in 1973, it was a major milestone in the life of the growing organization. At that time, an editorial in *Coin World* (June 20, 1973) paid tribute to the one man whose leadership guided the infant organization to its present vigorous adulthood: Morris Bram, president of the organization and an unpaid officer since the first moments of the dream.

The editorial was headed:

Morris, The Miracle Man

In part it read . . .

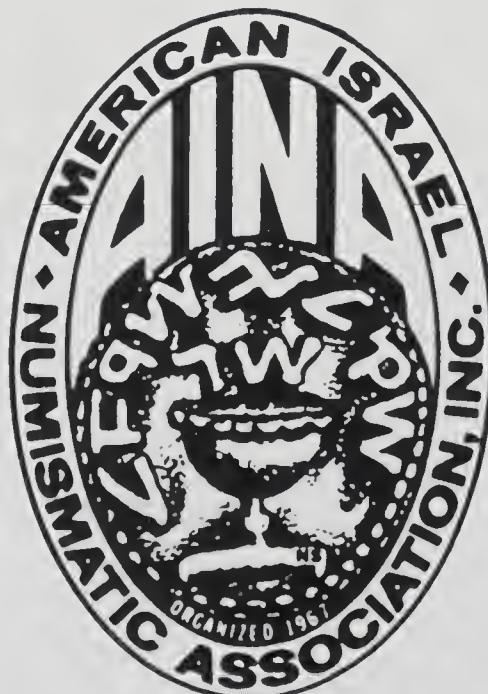
" . . . friend, leader, true American, sincere patriot of Israel . . . "

It spoke of:

" . . . zest, steadfastness and wisdom . . . "

AINA recently began its sixteenth year. Bram's reward for all these years of effort is the sturdy national organization which has won so many adherents around the world: AINA.

—George Gilbert, (April, 1983)



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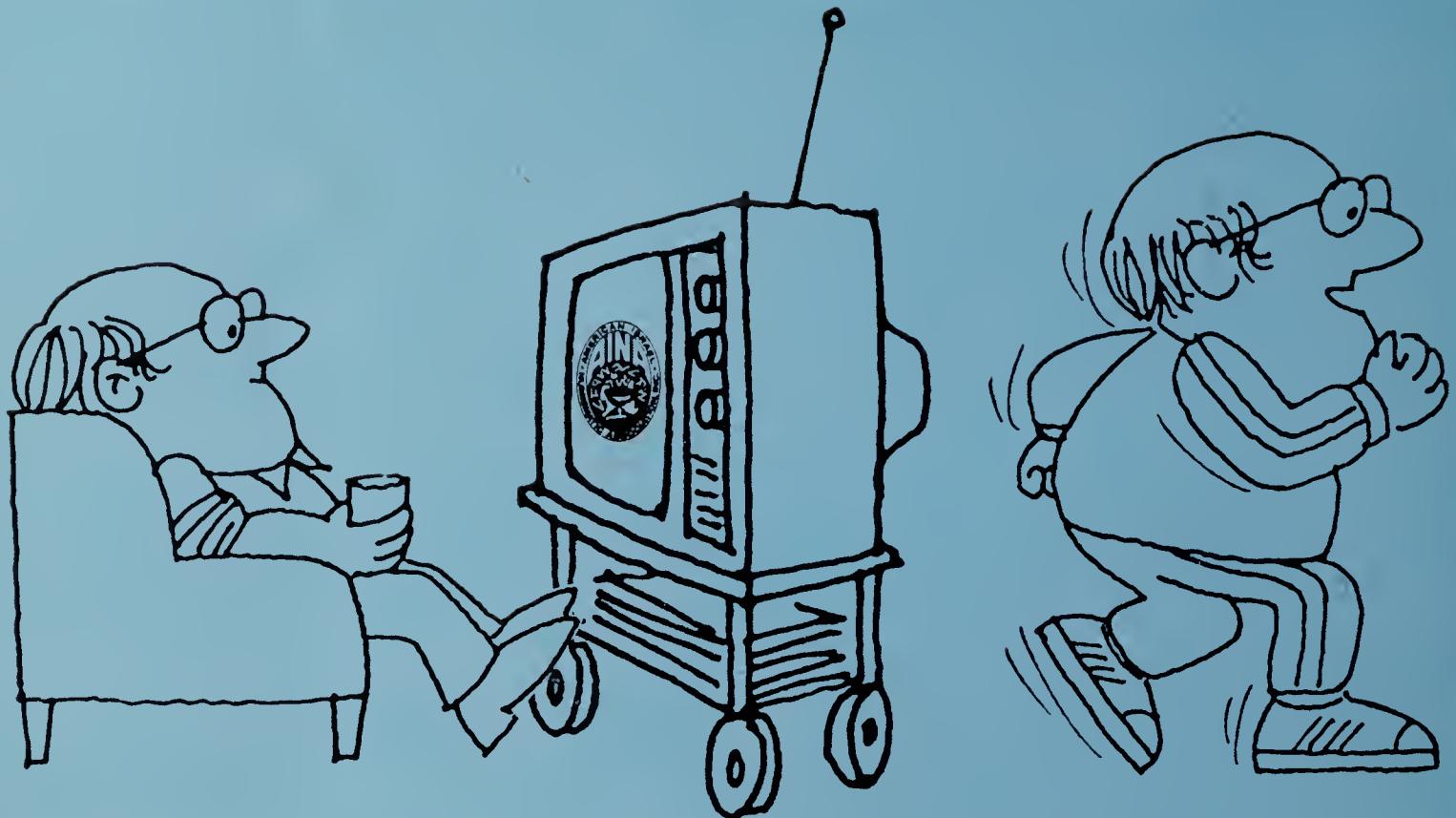
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